

Municipality issues election instructions

AMMAN (Petra) — The Greater Amman Municipality Council, holding its monthly session under the chairmanship of Mayor Ali Al Shkhat Tuesday, endorsed instructions related to advertising for candidates for the Nov. 6 elections. The advertising campaigns begin Oct. 14. Election signs should be displayed in streets and public squares only after getting the approval of the municipality, ensuring that such signs do not obstruct traffic or vision, and that they are at least 50 metres away from the nearest traffic sign, according to the instructions. The instructions also stipulate that if signs are hung across the street the height should be at least five metres in highways and four metres in downtown streets. No election signs or posters can be stuck or hung to walls, balconies, walls and stores or electricity, telephone and traffic poles. At the end of the meeting, Shkhat conveyed the directives of His Majesty King Hussein which stress the need to continue the development of Amman. Shkhat also urged the committee members to ensure that all citizens support the municipality's efforts with regard to cleanliness and public safety.

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Shamir seeks veto power over Palestinian negotiators Baker invites Israeli, Egyptian counterparts to Washington talks

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has invited the Israeli and Egyptian foreign ministers to Washington in an attempt to break a Middle East peace stalemate, Israeli officials said Tuesday.

But Israel has complicated U.S. mediation efforts by demanding a veto over Palestinian representatives to peace talks, Western diplomats and Israeli sources said.

Baker proposed a three-way meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and Egyptian counterpart Esam Abdul Meguid in telephone calls after Israeli leaders last Friday rejected Egypt's invitation to meet a Palestinian delegation in Cairo.

"The problem is that Israel wants to choose both teams on the football field," a diplomat following the exchanges said.

The sources, quoted by Reuters, said the Israeli stance could hamper Baker's effort since Egypt, coordinating its actions with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), could not accept an Israeli veto.

Egypt has drafted a list of potential Palestinian delegates composed of PLO supporters from the occupied territories and expelled Palestinians who are senior PLO activists. President Hosni Mubarak was said any delegation would have to have PLO approval.

Western diplomats in Cairo said Tuesday that Washington had asked Egypt to persuade the PLO to accept the exclusion of Palestinians from outside the occupied territories in such a delegation.

Neither the PLO nor Egypt was likely to accept Washington's request, the diplomats said.

An Israeli foreign ministry spokesman told reporters: "One of our basic principles is that Israel will not agree to any move that will bring direct or indirect contact with the PLO."

He said this did not amount to a demand for a right of veto but added: "The principle we stick to is that the PLO will be totally out of the picture."

Sources close to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said while he welcomed greater U.S. involvement, he had misgivings about the wording of Baker's proposals, presented orally, because they did not ensure a clear-cut Israeli veto power.

Diplomats said Washington was reluctant to offer any formula

in writing because it would mean taking sides on key issues.

Arens was quoted by the daily Yediot Ahronot as saying: "We are trying to come up with a formula on the two main points."

He defined those as composition of a Palestinian delegation over which the PLO would have no control and limiting the agenda to implementing Israel's May 14 plan for elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Baker's proposal calls for a tripartite meeting within two weeks to discuss the makeup of a Palestinian delegation and an agenda for the proposed Cairo talks.

Likud hawks, who plan a meeting Wednesday, opposed Baker's plan outright, saying a meeting with Palestinians in Cairo was a ruse to start negotiations with the PLO.

"We are telling the prime minister not to let the PLO into the game, and now there is a new initiative to bring the PLO into the game," said Michael Eitan, a Likud member of parliament.

Other officials said Israel was also determined that the agenda for a meeting with Palestinians be restricted to agreeing details of the conduct of elections in the

West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel last May proposed that Palestinians in the occupied territories hold elections.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, whose Labour Party forced last Friday's inner cabinet vote on the Egyptian invitation, dismissed talk of a deadlock and told reporters: "I have time and patience and I am not pessimistic."

Rabin said he favoured allowing some of the expelled Palestinians to join the Palestinian delegation, but he ruled out the two on the reported Egyptian list — Akram Haniyeh and Mohammad Milhem — because they were PLO officials.

Labour's minister of energy, Moshe Shahal, said in an interview with the Associated Press that his party would accept the U.S. proposal.

He said the Baker approach differed from that of Egypt in that it left disputed issues for the proposed Cairo talks. These would include Palestinian demands that Arab Jerusalem Palestinians participate in the voting and that the negotiating process be based on understanding that there would be an exchange of land for peace.

West Bank and Gaza Strip.

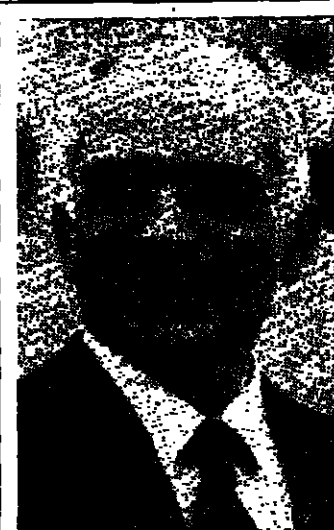
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King in Canada

OTTAWA (Agencies) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor were to arrive here late Tuesday on a six-day state visit to Canada upon the invitation of the governor general of Canada, Jeanne Sauve.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported from Reykjavik, Iceland, that the King and Queen — who left Rome Monday night — made a stopover in the Icelandic capital and met with President Vigdís Finnbogadóttir. Talks during the meeting dealt with various issues of mutual interest, with particular focus on environmental protection, Petra said.

The agency said the King and Queen invited the Icelandic president to visit Jordan.

The King and Queen are accompanied on the visit to Canada by Prime Minister Shervit Zaid Ben Shakar, Royal Court Chief Mudar Badran, the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hasham Al Khatib flew to Canada Monday to join the delegation.

In Ottawa, the King was scheduled to hold a round of talks with the governor-general and Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and to deliver an address at a dinner to be hosted by the governor-general.

During his stay in Rome, the King held talks with Italian President Francesco Cossiga, Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti and other Italian leaders on the situation in the Middle East and prospects for resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict as well as the Iran-Iraq dispute.

The King's talks in Ottawa are also expected to cover Middle East peace prospects and Canadian-Jordanian relations and economic cooperation.



Israeli soldiers check the identification of drivers as they approach a roadblock. Israel sealed off the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip Saturday and put troops on alert as the Jewish state shut down for the annual day of atonement fast.

Peace activist begins jail term for meeting Arafat

Israelis lift Gaza siege, wound six in clashes

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(Agencies) — The Israeli army reopened the Gaza Strip Tuesday, 56 hours after closing it for the Jewish day of atonement.

An army spokesman said troops reopened Gaza at 4 a.m. (0200 GMT) as scheduled, allowing Palestinian workers to enter Israel.

But only a small number of Palestinians left the strip in defiance of a general strike call by underground leaders of the Palestinian uprising.

Residents of Gaza, the occupied West Bank and Arab Jerusalem have complied with the five-day strike call, ending Tuesday, despite complaints that it imposed too heavy an economic burden on them.

The revolt entered its 23rd month Monday, with troops killing two Palestinians and wounding six Palestinians during clashes with stone-throwing demonstrators, reports said.

An Arab assailant who allegedly collaborated with the Israeli occupation authorities fatally shot a 16-year-old Palestinian in the chest in the West Bank refugee camp Fawwar, claiming the youth stoned his car, the reports said. The army confirmed the fatality but gave no details.

Meanwhile, hundreds of protesters saluted peace crusader Abie Nathan with balloons and a one-trumpet fanfare Tuesday as he became the first Israeli to go to jail for meeting with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

"There is no replacement for dialogue, no guns or stones will solve the problem," Nathan said before stepping through the blue iron gate into Eyal prison, about 20 kilometres northeast of Tel Aviv.

He also called on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to follow his example and meet Palestinian leaders "to continue the search for peace."

Left-wing legislators vowed to change the 1986 "anti-terror amendment" under which Nathan was convicted for a September 1988 meeting with Arafat in Tunis.

The law provides for a maximum three-year sentence for unauthorized meetings with members of a "terrorist" organisation.

"These meetings should only be banned if they contravene security. We want the law to allow talks aimed at bringing peace closer, even one millimeter," said Dedi Zucker, a member of parliament from the liberal Citizens' Rights Movement.

Several Israeli activists have previously been sentenced to six months for meeting with PLO leaders in Bucharest in November 1986 but remain free awaiting rulings on appeals.

Nathan, sentenced on Oct. 3 after pleading guilty to the charges, did not file an appeal.

Dressed in a black shirt and slacks, Nathan vowed to continue his defiant peace efforts in an emotional speech to 700 supporters before entering the minimum-security lockup.

"They clipped my wings only for a little while, but they know I will be back on the air," said Nathan.

Nathan is owner of the "Voice of Peace" pirate radio station which broadcasts to Israel and Arab states from a ship in the Mediterranean Sea.

After being freed, "I will fly to every corner of the earth if I have to search out the enemy, all enemies, to try to convince them that dialogue must take the place of confrontations on the battlefield," Nathan added.

Nearby a protester hoisted a huge red-and-white balloon that said: "Dialogue, not bloodshed."

A trumpet blared and Israeli youths sang "give peace a chance."

The Indian-born Nathan became known as a peace activist in 1964 when he made a dramatic flight to Cairo to appeal for an end to hostilities at a time when Egypt and Israel were in a state of war.

In 1978, he staged a 45-day hunger strike in an effort to persuade former Prime Minister Menachem Begin to ease a campaign of Jewish settlement building in occupied lands.

During Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, Nathan distributed toys to children in Lebanon and later met Arafat in Beirut. That meeting was officially sanctioned because he discussed a possible prisoner swap with Arafat.

"Too many young Arabs, Israeli soldiers, innocent civilians have lost their lives. The only route is talk to each other. That's why I'm going to prison," Nathan said.

Rabin's vow

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin vowed Tuesday that Israel would break Palestinians who refused to pay taxes in the occupied West Bank town of Beit Sahour and would teach them a lesson.

Participants at a closed-door parliamentary committee meeting said Rabin told them: "There will not be any attempt to boycott taxes. If it takes a month, it will take a month but they will break."

"We are going to teach them a lesson," he told the foreign affairs and defence committee.

Mayor Hanna Al Atrash says some 600 Beit Sahour merchants, artisans and workers are boycotting Israeli taxes under the slogan "No taxation under occupation."

Rabin angrily rejected criticism by human rights groups and Western diplomats of army seizures of furniture, household equipment and merchandise worth more than \$750,000 from residents withholding taxes.

His blunt language recalled tough statements last year when he vowed to crush the Palestinian uprising with "might, force and beatings."

Troops last week blocked seven West European consular general who tried to visit Beit Sahour at the request of Mayor Atrash to express their governments' concern about the Israeli action.

"The consuls will not hold demonstrations there and Faisal Hussein will not hold news conferences," Rabin was quoted as telling the parliamentarians.

The army earlier took the unprecedented step on declaring part of central Jerusalem a closed military area to prevent Hussein, a nationalist leader, holding a news conference in support of the Beit Sahour tax strike.

Hussein and the human rights groups say Israel is victimising Beit Sahour because of its non-violent resistance to the occupation.

Israeli sources said tax raids would resume Wednesday and the defence ministry has ordered that seizures be accelerated to complete the campaign before an international protest campaign gathers steam.

Israeli officials said they would start to auction the confiscated cars, video recorders, radios, televisions and machines this week at an army base near Tel Aviv.

Lebanese inch towards compromise

TAIF (Agencies) — Arab mediators Tuesday urged Lebanese parliament members to speed up national reconciliation talks and muster a united front to end their country's 14-year civil war.

A source at the meeting of 63 Lebanese deputies, who spoke on condition of anonymity, quoted a member of the three-man Arab League mediating committee as telling the legislators:

"You have often said you would solve your country's problems in 10 hours if left alone with no external forces meddling. But we see you have spent 10 days here without achieving results."

The source would not say which mediator made the comment. The three are foreign ministers Prince Saad Al Faisal of Saudi Arabia, Ahmad Ghazali of Algeria and Abdul Latif Al Filali of Morocco.

The mediators were holding separate meetings with groups of legislators in a bid to produce

agreement on a proposed reconciliation charter as the talks in Taif went into an 11th day.

Conference sources said an 18-member task force formulating a draft for political reforms was asked to finish its work before the day was out so that a plenary parliament session could be held.

The conference has not been able to hold such a session for four days.

The deputies were reported to be moving slowly towards a peace plan after hardline Christians conceded that an immediate Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon would allow militias to take control of Muslim regions.

The presence of Syria's 40,000 troops in Lebanon is the main issue that has threatened to undermine the peace talks.

The Arab committee has proposed a phased Syrian withdrawal from the Beirut area to be completed in two years, with a total pullout depending on Israel's ending its occupation of a "security" belt in South Lebanon and the conclusion of a Syrian-Lebanese security pact.

The Muslims and Syria have insisted that Damascus should withdraw its troops only after a political settlement of the civil war has been achieved.

The Christians have insisted on guarantees for a Syrian pullout within six months before agreeing to political reforms.

But the acknowledgment by Christian-legislators that a quick Syrian withdrawal could spur more turmoil has raised speculation that a compromise is in the works, possibly based on shortening the proposed two-year period for a Syrian withdrawal from Beirut.

Syrian troops have been in Lebanon since 1976 under an Arab League peacekeeping mandate. Christian leader Michel Aoun charges Damascus violated its mandate by backing the Muslims in the civil war.

Deputy Zaher Al Khatib, a Sunni Muslim member of the pro-Syrian National Front alliance, said the front was demanding "immediate abolition" of political sectarianism in war-ravaged Lebanon.

Truce panel threatened

In Beirut, pro-Syrians pulled out of a ceasefire committee Tuesday after a Muslim army officer was shot dead on Beirut's green line, military sources said.

They said representatives of the Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia, the druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and the mainly Muslim faction of the Lebanese army said they would not return unless the other side abided by the ceasefire.

A spokesman for the divided army's Muslim-led command said the officer, Abdul Rahman Aslan, was killed by a sniper bullet while on the western side of the green line splitting the capital.

Most allies welcome new Hungarian party

VIENNA (AP) — Official media in several East bloc countries Tuesday reported the Hungarian Communist Party's decision to change its name and commit to democracy, but provided little or no comment.

The new Hungarian Socialist Party was established at a party congress in Budapest over the weekend.

Romania, whose hard-line Communist leadership has been at odds with Hungary, kept a virtual news blackout on the event.

Romanian Communists sent a "comradely salute and wishes of success" when the Hungarian Communist Party congress opened last Friday. And Romanian leader Nicolae Ceausescu cabled his congratulations Tuesday to Renzo Nyer, president of the new party, expressing his hope for good relations between the two parties.

But the state-controlled press has not reported on the formation of the new party itself.

Official media in Communist non-aligned Yugoslavia said Hungary faced "a vacuum of power" because it was unclear who would rule the country until parliamentary elections next year.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was the first to congratulate Nyer, who leads the new party, which adopted a manifesto pledging commitment to democracy and a break with the Leninist orientation of its predecessor.

"Gorbachev conducts very fast diplomacy," Nyer told reporters in Budapest Monday night. "They gave me this telegram within two hours of my election."

Gorbachev's message expressed confidence that relations between the Soviet Communist Party and the Hungarian Socialist Party "will rest on the experience of interaction which has always played an important role in Soviet-Hungarian relations, and will serve the cause of peace and socialism."

Asked for a comment Tuesday, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov told a Moscow news briefing the situation in Hungary had changed too quickly for him to comment.

The creation of the new party, the first time in Eastern Europe a communist party disbanded itself, had been urged by Hungarian reformers who had pushed for the country's first free national elections in 41 years. Elections are to be held next year. The reformers said the old Leninist-type ruling party had no chance of attracting electoral support.

Hungary and Poland, with the first non-Communist dominated government in the Soviet bloc, are on the vanguard of reform among Warsaw Pact countries.

Polish media gave the story prominent play but had little commentary.

Pro-Solidarity Gazeta Wyborcza had a picture of Nyer on the front page with the headline, "Old chief of a new party."



Ban on imports to be rescinded

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The government has decided to lift a ban on imports of several goods, including automobiles, televisions, refrigerators and air conditioners, with effect from Jan. 1, 1990.

The decision to lift the ban, imposed by the then government of Zaid Rifa'i in November 1988 as an austerity measure to curb the outflow of foreign exchange, was taken at a regular Cabinet session chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masa'deh.

Information Minister Nasouh Majali told reporters after the Cabinet meeting that the decision to lift the ban, which covers a total of 11 categories of goods, was coupled with "rationalisation of imports of such items in compliance with the current financial policies of the government."

The goods banned from imports since November included television and antennas, tiles, marble, granite, red bricks, wall paper, furniture, chandeliers, microwave ovens and artificial flowers and fruits. It was estimated that the Kingdom could save around \$200 million in foreign exchange through the ban.

According to Majali, the expected imports of these products in 1990 was about \$30 million and the government expected to collect about \$25 million as revenues from duties on these items.

Finance Minister Basel Jaradneh told reporters Monday that the volume of imports of such goods imported under licenses already issued before the ban was imposed were worth about \$50 million, and that the total value of imports of the goods in 1990 was not expected to be higher than \$75 million. He also said that the government would impose higher customs tariffs on such imports so as to curtail the imports rather than resorting to "administrative measures" such as the ban, which was anyway supposed to have been in effect only until Dec. 31, 1989. The minister did not spell out the envisaged increases in customs duties on these items, but economists expect them to be substantial.

Other decisions taken during Tuesday's Cabinet session included endorsement of a draft law dealing with the rights of the handicapped to education and jobs, and approval of an agreement with Canada related to rescheduling Jordan's debts, Majali said. The Council of Ministers also decided to grant exemption from duties to the Greater Amman Municipal Council on the import of equipment needed to set up a foodstuff testing laboratory. The total cost of the equipment will be \$700,000.

UNESCO chief seeks to avoid Palestine issue

PARIS (AP) — UNESCO's director-general said Monday he hopes he can avoid debate on admitting Palestine as a full member state when the organisation's general conference meets next week.

Federico Mayor said the conference of the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), held every two years, should limit itself to increasing assistance to Palestinians living in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"It's not for UNESCO to decide on matters that are not within its competence and I hope we will not see an emergence of this issue," Mayor told a news conference.

Palestine's admission features on the agenda of the month-long meeting of UNESCO's 158 member states that begins Oct. 17 to approve activities for the first half of the 1990s.

Mayor said the proper forum for such a debate is the U.N. General Assembly, which last year decided the Palestine Liberation Organisation's observer mission should be known simply as Palestine. Mayor said this implied no change in the legal status of the observer mission.

He acknowledged meeting

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat but said they did not discuss the admission issue and refused to give other details.

PLO mission chief Omar Masalha has said he might agree to remain an observer if UNESCO devotes more programmes to Palestinians.

The Palestinian organisation began campaigning for membership of international organisations after it declared the state of Palestine in November 1988. Washington and most Western allies say it does not fulfil international criteria because it has no defined territory.

The United States, which left UNESCO nearly five years ago, has said it will not return if Palestine becomes a member state.

Mayor, the Spanish biochemist who took over the troubled agency nearly two years ago, has made the return of the United States and Britain a major objective.

The two nations, which provided 30 per cent of UNESCO's budget, left charging it had be-

come overly political, spendthrift and was poorly managed.

The United States has said it is "extremely unlikely" to return because Mayor has not made significant changes.

Mayor asserted Monday he had: improving management, reducing programmes by 47 per cent and focusing on basics such as reducing illiteracy.

Controversial programmes such as establishing a new world information and communication order were approved not by him but by member states, he said.

Mayor has proposed a new strategy on communications in an effort to end the decade-long debate. But in spring UNESCO's Third World-dominated executive board proposed changes that would undo his reform-oriented free-press approaches.

Mayor urged those worried about the changes to "hide their time" until the conference ends, implying he could get his original programme approved.

Western nations and media say a new world information order could harm freedom of the press. Developing countries say there are imbalances in the flow of information and charge Western media reports about their countries are distorted.

Ortega in Cyprus

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — President Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua arrived on this East Mediterranean island Monday for a two-day working visit.

Ortega, whose visit was not officially announced until two days earlier, was welcomed at the airport by his Cypriot counterpart George Vassiliou with whom he later had a 90-minute initial meeting.

He flew to Cyprus on an East German Interflug airliner from Berlin, where he had been attending the celebrations for the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the German Democratic Republic.

Informed sources, who did not wish to be named, said his visit was linked to Nicaragua's desire to take over the presidency of the Non-Aligned Movement, held by Yugoslavia for the next four years.

The candidacy of Nicaragua, one of the most pro-Moscow members of the Non-Aligned Movement, is opposed by conservative, right-leaning members of the group.

Cyprus is one of the founder members of the movement and in the last four years it has played a major role as chairman of a committee for its modernisation.

The sources said issues dealing with the Non-Aligned Movement will be discussed during a meeting between Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto, who is accompanying Ortega, and his Cypriot counterpart George Vassiliou.

Talking to newsmen after their meeting at the presidential palace the two presidents said they briefed each other on the situation in their respective states.

"We share many things common to small states as members of the Non-Aligned Movement," Ortega said.

He added that Nicaragua "fully supports the total independence and sovereignty of Cyprus."

6 Lebanese confess to plotting to kill Aoun

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — States prosecutor Rallis Gavrielides stated in court Tuesday that six Lebanese men being tried for illegal arms possession had all confessed that they had come to Cyprus to assassinate Lebanese military leader Gen. Michel Aoun.

He explained that an earlier charge of plotting to assassinate Aoun was dropped because under Cyprus law arms possession is a more serious charge.

It carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment, while plotting to kill is punishable by up to 14 years imprisonment only.

Gavrielides said press reports claiming that the plotting charge was the more serious of the two were wrong.

Gavrielides said the accused confessed they had come to Cyprus from Lebanon in May, specifically to shoot down Aoun's helicopter. Aoun had been scheduled to transit through the island en route to Morocco to attend an Arab summit meeting on Lebanon. But he cancelled the trip.

The group was arrested between May 26 and 28 in the south coast port of Larnaca with an arms cache that included two Soviet-designed SA-7 shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles, five AK-47 assault rifles, 500 rounds of ammunition and 38 grenades.

Gavrielides said the six described Aoun in their confessions as a "traitor" or a "dragon" and as the person "responsible for Lebanon's tragedy."

Aoun's forces were fighting the Syrian army and other Druze Muslim allies in Lebanon at the time. Six months of artillery battles halted Sept. 22, when an Arab League-brokered ceasefire took effect.

Five of the defendants were also charged with entering the East Mediterranean island illegally.

The six were identified as Imad Salama Al Khafaji, 27, a sailor; Emil Alamedine Ghazali, 27, a money changer; Twefic Wadi Al Shahr, 27, unemployed; Idris Jamal Jaber, 27, a video-shop employee; Rouston Majib Serhan, 29, a restaurant owner and Wadih Sejm Salameh, 27, a sailor.

The trial adjourned until Wednesday for a summation by the lawyer of the six accused. The three-judge, non-jury court will later hand down its sentence.

Soon after the six were arrested a Lebanese faction calling itself the March 14 Organisation claimed the men were its members and warned the Cyprus government not to punish them harshly.

"If it does, we shall be compelled to deal with the Republic of Cyprus as an adverse party in the current conflict in Lebanon," the group said.

Cypriot authorities tightened security across the island after the threat, apparently as a precaution against a possible aircraft hijack to force the release of the six.

Polisario Front blames Morocco for clashes

MADRID (R) — A leader of the Polisario Front Tuesday blamed Morocco for a new outbreak of fighting in the Western Sahara, saying King Hassan was not serious about dialogue with the rebel group.

Polisario's European spokesman Ahmad Bujari, commenting on last week's clashes, told the El Pais newspaper here that King Hassan had repeatedly put off negotiations.

"It's a year since we started a dialogue with Morocco and since then there have been five commitments to a second meeting by King Hassan, all of them unilaterally postponed by him," Bujari said.

The Polisario Front has waged a 13-year guerrilla war for independence for the former Spanish colony of Western Sahara, ceded by Spain to Morocco in 1976.

Last Saturday, Morocco and Polisario both reported a major attack at the mountain oasis town of Guelta Zemmur.

The fighting was the most so far. In January King Hassan received a Polisario delegation at his palace in Marrakesh for the first direct talks in the war.

After the attack on Guelta Zemmur, King Hassan immediately said he was calling off a planned second round of talks, but Bujari said Polisario still thought the solution was through dialogue.

Asked how the renewed fighting would affect an imminent vote on the Western Sahara issue in the United Nations General Assembly, Bujari said: "We have had a lot of patience. But it's been well demonstrated that Morocco is more interested in talking war than peace."

Both sides have accepted a U.N. plan to resolve the conflict through a referendum giving the people of the Western Sahara a choice between independence or integration with Morocco, but the peace process has been stalled by disagreements on arranging conditions for such a referendum.

Turkey starts election countdown

ANKARA (R) — Turkey opened registration for prospective presidential candidates Tuesday with most eyes fixed on conservative Prime Minister Turgut Ozal.

Candidates to succeed ex-General Kenan Evren, who led a 1980 coup and three years of army rule, have from now until October 19 to submit their names for the prestigious seven-year post.

There have been no formally declared candidates so far but Ozal, since 1983 the country's dominant politician, has hinted he may run and become the first fully civilian president in three decades.

"If it is a matter of representing the state, there is no one better than me. I am the best known (Turkish) politician abroad," Ozal, 61, told the mass-circulation daily Hurriyet.

An opinion poll published in the conservative daily Tercuman Tuesday showed that 62 per cent of people were against Ozal's candidacy and that only 21.6 per cent supported him.

Sources in the ruling Motherland Party said Ozal, a master of surprise, was likely to delay any formal announcement until the last moment to help dampen opposition to his presidency.

Political sources said other



Turgut Ozal

candidates if Ozal decided not to opt for the presidency included Deputy Prime Minister Ali Bozer and former Prime Minister and Admiral Bulend Ulusu.

Parliamentary opposition parties have threatened to boycott voting starting on Oct. 20 if Ozal stands and refused to recognise him if he wins. Ozal's popularity was dwindled due mainly to the impact of 73 per cent year-on-year inflation.

Ozal, who sees mainly Muslim but secular Turkey's future with the West, would be almost sure of election by virtue of his 289-seat stranglehold on the 450-seat parliament.

Reaching to press speculation about a possible coup if the election process ran into trouble, the military chief-of-staff's office has reaffirmed a commitment to parliamentary democracy.

The election is being held at a time when Turkey needs political stability to deal with problems including a separatist Kurdish insurgency in the rugged south east to troubled ties with neighbouring Bulgaria.

The first of up to four secret ballots to choose the new president by Nov. 4 starts on Oct. 20. A general would follow automatically if the final ballot failed.

Ozal has been the driving force behind Turkey's economic liberalisation to back its application for full European Community (EC) membership.

Anticipating Ozal's candidacy, the Motherland is already discussing possible new leaders to help restore party prestige after a humiliating defeat with only 22 per cent of the national vote in municipal elections last March.

Names widely mentioned include Bozer, 64, Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz, 42, Finance Minister Ekrem Pakdemirli, 51, former Education Minister Hasan Celal Güzel, 44 and Mehmet Koceler, 45-year-old leader of the party's fundamentalist wing.

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Ozal has been the driving force behind Turkey's economic liberalisation to back its application for full European Community (EC) membership.

Anticipating Ozal's candidacy, the Motherland is already discussing possible new leaders to help restore party prestige after a humiliating defeat with only 22 per cent of the national vote in municipal elections last March.

Names widely mentioned include Bozer, 64, Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz, 42, Finance Minister Ekrem Pakdemirli, 51, former Education Minister Hasan Celal Güzel, 44 and Mehmet Koceler, 45-year-old leader of the party's fundamentalist wing.

Reaching to press speculation about a possible coup if the election process ran into trouble, the military chief-of-staff's office has reaffirmed a commitment to parliamentary democracy.

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Good-will, trade multiplies Turkish-Soviet border links

SARP, Turkey (R) — The rumble of trains and the occasional truck is becoming a familiar sound in the Black Sea village of Sarp as Turkish-Soviet border links multiply with new-found good-will and trade.

Guards in watchtowers on both sides peer through binoculars at the growing activity at the Sarp crossing, closed in the 1930s by Soviet leader Josef Stalin and reopened in a chaotic, emotional ceremony a year ago.

Caution and red tape have done little to dampen local enthusiasm as families rediscover long-lost relatives who share the same Georgian or Laz ancestry of the Caucasus.

"Turkey? It was love at first sight," said a Soviet Georgian tourist in the regional centre of Trabzon, where weekly Soviet groups are becoming well known for their shopping sprees.

An average 100 people, two or three tour buses, 20 cars and one or two trucks now cross the border daily and the number is steadily rising, Turkish border officials say. About 60 per cent of travellers are visiting relatives.

Poles, Greeks and Soviet Georgians and Azerbaijanis filled the new Turkish customs house on one recent day and barely a week goes by without a sports team, official delegation or folk dancing group crossing either way.

The Soviet Union and NATO-member Turkey are encouraging the contacts, part of rapidly improving relations in recent years. Major talks on bilateral trade in Moscow this month will also clarify a local trade accord and detail how and what Turkish and Soviet border provinces may trade through Sarp.

Turkish sources expect a Soviet

consulate to open in Trabzon before the end of the year and a ferry link from Trabzon to the Soviet Georgian port of Batumi is under study.

Soviet Georgians were even more enthusiastic than Turks for better links, not just because Turkey has cheap consumer goods but also because of Georgian aspirations for greater independence from Moscow, Turkish sources said.

"They even asked me if they could open a Georgian consulate," said Kadir Helvasi, mayor of Artvin, capital of the Black Sea province of Artvin on the Soviet border.

Top Georgian officials raised their glasses at joint dinners to toast Georgian independence and to remember the "April 9 martyrs," 20 people killed in nationalist protests in the Georgian capital Tbilisi earlier this

year, Helvasi said. Helvasi, of Georgian origin like at least 10 per cent of Artvin province, has taken a lead in forging ties and arranging visits. He dubs himself Georgia's "honorary consul."

The Moscow talks are expected to ease visa regulations but a major border trade problem is that Georgia wants to buy a lot from Turkey but Turkey needs little from Georgia.

"There is nothing here the Turks don't have," admitted a Soviet official at the Izmir International Trade Fair, where the Soviet pavilion featured a Georgian stand.

"We have people who speak Georgian and Laz (a Caucasian dialect). But for us business would be better done in hard currency, not barter," said Bahattin Bayraktar, head of the

chamber of commerce in Hopa, a small port town near Sarp. Such problems have been overcome in bilateral trade because the Soviet Union uses income for transactions from a natural gas pipeline to western Turkey opened in 1987, whose annual throughput will double present levels to six billion cubic metres in the 1990s.

Turkish-Soviet trade is expected to reach \$1 billion in 1989, nearly triple the 1986 figure, Soviet Ambassador to Turkey Albert Chernishev said.

"The chemistry is good," he told Reuters, adding that the opening of another crossing point between Turkey and the Soviet Union at Nakhchivan, part of Azerbaijan, was being discussed.

Turkey has given its first trade credits to Moscow this year. Moscow has used the \$300 million to buy Turkish pharmaceuticals,

soaps, detergents and textiles. "We have found good prices and proper quality," Chernishev told Reuters. "The Turkish side has observed with surprise that we might become their main trading partner."

In the past year, 1,500 Turks have started work in the Soviet Union on nearly \$392 million worth of projects from prestige developments in Moscow to Black Sea hotels.

A further \$350 million of construction credits are expected to be signed during the talks in Moscow, Soviet and Turkish officials say.

Neither side has let its guard down far. Turkish officials said the Soviet military would not let Soviet customs men visit their Turkish counterparts even to drink tea made from the green bushes cloaking the lush coastal mountains.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Summary executions alleged in Somalia

LONDON (R) — Amnesty International called Tuesday for the Somali government to put on trial the alleged killers of 46 political prisoners reported to have been shot following demonstrations in Mogadishu in July. It said in a report that the alleged killings occurred 11 days after an Amnesty delegation left Somalia following its first visit in 20 years, during which it received assurances that the government would cooperate to protect human rights. The government has denied accusations that large numbers of people were killed after being detained in the demonstrations against earlier arrests. Amnesty said: "At least 46 people, nearly all of them members of the Isaaq clan, were reportedly summarily executed by soldiers on a beach near Jazira, 30 kilometres south west of Mogadishu, on July." It added: "There are fears for the safety of some 50 people whose families have not been able to establish their whereabouts since they were taken into custody." Amnesty said that despite assurances of cooperation from the government of President Mohammed Siad Barre several of his prominent critics were arrested in July, including lawyers and religious leaders.

Turkish schoolboy acquitted

ANKARA (R) — A Turkish schoolboy who scrawled the word Marxism on his desk fainted when he was cleared Tuesday of spreading Communist propaganda after spending a year between prison, psychiatric hospitals and as a social outcast. The state prosecutor had demanded that Melih Calayoglu be sent to jail for at least five years for spreading Communist propaganda in violation of Turkey's 63-year-old anti-Communism laws. Court officials said the judge at the Aegean port city of Izmir ordered the 16-year-old's acquittal on the grounds that he didn't spread the propaganda deliberately. Calayoglu was taken from school by the political police in September 1988 scratching the word Marxism on his desk, a hammer and sickle on the classroom door and copying the names of banned leftist groups in his exercise books. The case provoked a national outcry after Calayoglu spent 87 days in prison and 33 days in a hospital cell being subjected to psychiatric tests. Calayoglu said he was often treated as a dangerous leftist outcast in his middle-class Izmir suburb. Ayse Tosuner, a member of the Izmir Greens Party and strong supporter of Calayoglu, said the schoolboy was still fighting to be allowed to study in the school of his choice.

Earthquake hits central Turkey

ISTANBUL (R) — An earthquake hit central Turkey Tuesday, toppling a mosque minaret and badly damaging four houses. The semi-official Anatolian News Agency said there were no reports of casualties from the quake, which measures 4.5 on the open-ended Richter Scale. It struck the villages of Saraycik and Doruklu in Kayseri province.

'Israel wants to sabotage peace moves'

NICOSIA (R) — The deadlock in Middle East peace negotiations made clear Israel not only did not want peace but was actively sabotaging efforts and the crisis, an Iranian newspaper said Tuesday. The Zionist rejection of Egyptian 10-point proposal brought to a standstill all past efforts to bring the two sides in the conflict to peace, an editorial in Kayhan International carried by the Iranian News Agency (IRNA) said. "Despite expressions of optimism on the part of the Cairo government, it is obvious that the Israeli decision was made to block attempts for any kind of dialogue with the Palestinians," the English-language daily, which is usually hardline in foreign policy matters, said. There remained no hope of a peaceful settlement in the Palestinian crisis "despite the enormous amount of flexibility exhibited by the PLO in the past several months, as Israel chooses to remain obstinate and intransigent," IRNA received in Nicosia quoted the newspaper as saying.

Court gives Jan. 3 deadline for bombers

KHARTOUM (AP) — A high court set a Jan. 3 deadline for families of victims of five Palestinian bombers to decide whether they would pardon the defendants, the official Sudan News Agency reported Monday. The decision came two weeks after Sudan's Supreme Court, responding to an appeal, decided to reduce the charge from assassination to premeditated murder. Under Sudanese law, that leaves it to families of the dead whether the killers should hang, buy their freedom or be pardoned. The five defendants had admitted to placing bombs in the downtown Acropolis Hotel and to shooting attack at a nearby Expatriates Club, killing a British couple, their two children aged 3 and 1, and a British English teacher working for charity organisation. A Sudanese army officer and a janitor also died in the explosion on May 15, 1988. The defendant said their attack was aimed at British and American interests to avenge the killing of Khalil Al Wazir, a leading Palestine Liberation Organisation figure, a month before in Tunis. That assassination was allegedly carried out by Israeli intelligence agents.

'Iraq ready to support joint Arab action'

BAGHDAD (R) — Libya's third in command in the revolutionary leadership has said after meeting President Saddam Hussein that Iraq was ready to support joint Arab action and strengthen the Arab nation's role in the world community. Major Khouleidi Hamidi made his remarks to the official Iraqi News Agency before leaving Baghdad after delivering a message to Hussein from Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi. He did not elaborate on the joint Arab action. Hamidi was in Damascus where he delivered a similar message to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and held talks with Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas. Iraqi supports arms and Lebanese military leader General Michel Aoun who has been fighting the troops and allies of Iraq's arch rival Syria in a bid to drive Damascus's 33,000 soldiers from Lebanon.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Korea
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children's programmes
17:00	Alph
17:30	Educational programme
18:00	News summary in Arabic
18:05	Cairo News Message
18:25	Local programme
19:20	Local programme
19:40	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
21:40	Local programme
22:25	Wrestling
23:10	Varities programme
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:45	Le Monde Magique de Chantal
18:00	Documentary
18:30	L'Appari
19:00	News in French
19:15	Comedy series
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Empty Nest
21:10	All the Rivers Run
22:40	News in English
23:20	Tamara
PRAYER TIMES	
04:15	Fajr
05:31	(Sunrise) Dhuha
11:22	Dhuhr
14:41	'Asr
17:13	Maghreb

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Aqaba 20 / 36
Deqeer 20 / 38
Jordan Valley 22 / 37

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 33, Aqaba 38. Humidity reading: Amman 25 per cent, Aqaba 19 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Awad Hawamdeh 777665
Dr. Yousef Rasheed 896301
Dr. Ahmad Al Nator 635934
Dr. Hussein Hadad 731267
Ferdous pharmacy 782336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nairovakh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Simoneau pharmacy 637660

IRBID:

Dr. Amin Abu 'Eideh (—)
Al Shams' pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:

Dr. Maysoon Hanna (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 963417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 731321
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 625800
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information 121
Police assistants 010230
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephones Repairs 661101
Jordan Telephones 731111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
R / Flight Information 06-53220
Queen Afa Ind. Airport 06-53220

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Eidali Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Alkheh Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Fuleideh, Shmeisai 664174
Shmeisai Hospital 669331
University Hospital 655295
Al-Muasher Hospital 667229
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 666164/6
Al-Muasher, J. Amn 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashedh 775112/4
Aray, Madra 891611/5
Queen Afa Hospital 622402/50
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Zargo Govt. Hospital (09)983523
Zargo National Hospital (09)991071
Jin Sira Hospital (09)986732

IRBID:

Princess Beama Hospital (02)275555
Jewish Catholic Hospital (02)272715
Ibn Al Nafess Hospital (02)274710

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)33200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Flight Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

08:10	→ Jeddah (RJ)
09:15	→ Aqaba (RJ)
09:45	→ Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00	→ Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
10:15	→ Larana (RJ)
10:30	→ Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
10:45	→ Cairo (RJ)
11:00	→ Riyadh (RJ)
11:25	→ Amman, Paris (RJ)
17:55	→ London, Frankfurt (RJ)
18:00	→ Madrid, Rome (RJ)
18:40	→ Chicago, New York, Vienna (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:20	→ Dubai (AZ)
7:25	→ ...

ELECTIONS '89

By Nermeen Murad

A KEEN elections observer has analysed statistically the situation in the Third District in the capital. According to him, there are 60,000 registered voters, but only 40,000 would eventually pick up their cards for a variety of reasons which include travel, death, laziness and mistakes in the handling out of the cards. With a quick statistical formula, his assessment is that Muslim candidates would need around 4,000 votes to win, Christians need 3,000 votes and Circassians need 12,000. The Circassian, I assume, will have to be the most popular person, among non-Circassians, in the capital to be able to reach his meagre seat in the parliament especially that the Circassian voters are estimated at 1,200 voters in the Third District.

Rumour has it that the governor of the capital is searching for his voter card in the Third District and has not yet found it.

I went to pick up my family's voter cards the other day armed with pictures of my family members (we are only four). I discovered that my mother's first and last name were misspelled, my father's first name was misspelled and after arguing with the gentleman handing out cards, I convinced him to staple our pictures on our cards and he did. The problem now is that my picture is stapled and stamped on my mother's card while my mother's picture is stapled on my card.

Some candidates are rumoured to be considering renting small aeroplanes from which copies of their election campaigns would be made on their constituency. It makes one wonder if the constituency will still think that these candidates "would feel with the suffering of the poor."

A governorate candidate has already spent JD 200,000 on his election campaign, but still falls short of his allocated funding for this race which has been estimated at half a million dinars.

One candidate addressing a public debate started his address by saying "I dream and pray God that they do not arrest my dreams." Later on in the debate a voter asked him a question which obviously did not please his friends, and they proceeded to arrest that voter's opinion with a violent verbal attack.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

JORDAN BEATS U.K. POLO TEAM: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday led the national polo team to a 4-1 victory over the British team of Cyprus in a game held at the grounds of the Polo Club. At the end of the game, the Zarqa Governor presented trophies to the winner team, the visiting team and the referees. (Petra)

CABINET APPROVES NEW AMBASSADORS: The Cabinet has approved the appointment of Mohammad Al Udwan as ambassador to Moscow; Nayef Al Qadi, ambassador to Qatar; Sa'd Batayneh, ambassador to Australia; Qasem Ghizawi, ambassador to Morocco and Shahr Bak ambassador to Spain. (Petra)

SHARIF ZAID CABLES CONGRATULATIONS: Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Monday cabled congratulations to President of the Amman Chamber of Industry Khaldoun Abu Hassan on his appointment as president of the Higher Council of the Union of Chambers of Industry in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC). In his cable, the prime minister wished the higher council success in promoting economic cooperation and industrial integration so as to attain the ACC objectives. (Petra)

KEILANI INSPECTS PLANTS: Minister of Water and Irrigation Mohammad Saleh Al Keilani Tuesday inspected water purification plants of Abu Naser and Baqa'. The minister expressed satisfaction with work performed at the two plants and the methods adopted in the treatment of wastewater. (Petra)

KHAYYAT MEETS INDONESIAN ENVOY: Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr. Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat Tuesday discussed with Indonesian Ambassador to Jordan Dr. Sumaryo Suryokusumo, Jordanian-Indonesian relations and matters related to the cooperation agreement signed between the two countries in Islamic fields. (Petra)

ARAB JUSTICE MINISTERS TALKS POSTPONED: The 7th session of the Council of Arab Ministers of Justice, scheduled to convene in Rabat Oct. 9-12, has been postponed for Nov. 13-16. This was reported in a cable Minister of Justice Raif Al Wazni received Tuesday from the general secretariat of the Council of Arab Ministers of Justice. (Petra)

WAZANI RECEIVES FORENSIC INSTITUTE CHIEF: Minister of Justice Raif Al Wazni Monday discussed with the director of the Iraqi Forensic Medicine Institute, Dr. Nadhir al Dymy, the role of forensic medicine in achieving justice and the standardisation of legal terms related to this field. Present was head of the Forensic Medicine Department at the Ministry of Health and Social Development Dr. Mu'min Al Hadi. (Petra)

7 LAWYERS TAKE THE OATH: A total of seven lawyers Tuesday took the oath before Minister of Justice Raif Al Wazni and in the presence of Jordan Bar Association Vice President Marwan Al Hussein. The lawyers had earlier been accepted as members of the association after completing the required period of training. (Petra)

NEW TRANSFERS FOR PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS: Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Mass'edh Tuesday decided to transfer some provincial governors. Under the decision, Zarqa Assistant Governor Ahmad Al Lawzi will be appointed director of the Public Safety Department at the ministry, South Mazar District Governor Nael Al Azab will replace Lawzi in the Zarqa Governorate. Shobak Sub-District Governor Mohammad Al Subeihat will become acting district governor in South Mazar and Mahmoud Ijrad, sub-district governor in Ma'an will be transferred as district governor of Shobak. The decision takes effect as of Oct. 14. (Petra)

NEW STAMPS: The Post Office and Postal Savings Corporation will issue new stamps on King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein Mosque Tuesday marking the Prophet Mohammad's Birthday which falls on Thursday. The stamps will be sold at 40 fils, 60 fils, and 100 fils at all post offices in the Kingdom. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition of watercolours on Jordan by Salem Kamsan at Al Wazni Art Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of Islamic scripts at Jordan National Gallery for Fine Arts.
- ★ An exhibition marking the 1st centennial of the Eiffel Tower displaying photographs, drawings and pictures demonstrating the tower in all its aspects at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Omar Boudi at Alla Art Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition entitled "Multiple Regards" displaying lithographs of Picasso, Matisse, Miró, Braque, Cocteau and Le Corbusier, at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by Foad Mimi and 'Ammar Khammash at Al-Hamad Shoman Foundation's Scientific and Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.

Prince Hassan to speak on Prophet's birthday anniversary

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan, along with the Arab and Muslim nations will mark Prophet Mohammad's birthday, which falls Thursday, Nov. 12.

On the occasion His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, will address the major celebration which will be held Wednesday at Al Hussein Youth City's Palace of Culture.

Awqaf Minister Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat, chairman of the Royal Commission for Jerusalem Affairs Akram Zuaiter, the General Mufti of Jordan Izzaddin Al Khatib and the Armed Forces Mufti Nuh Sulaiman will also address the celebrations.

The celebrations include national plays and songs.

Celebrations will also be held at King Abdullah Mosque, Al Hussein Mosque, in downtown Amman, and in the various Awqaf Departments throughout the Kingdom.

Islamic book exhibitions, scouting marches and mosques clean-up campaigns will be organised in various parts of the country.

The ministry's Women Affairs Department will organise a symposium Saturday during which women leaders will speak about the event.

The Women's Affairs Department

Director Azizah Nairoukh said that President of the Federation of Jordanian Women Haifa Al Bashir and the department's Public Relations Officer Abeer Al Rayyan will address the symposium.

However, she pointed out, a special programme was drawn up for preachers to give lessons and lectures about the occasion in the various parts of the Kingdom. A book exhibition will also be held at Nuzha Social Development Centre.

On the occasion, all night clubs, bars and wineries will be closed Thursday and all restaurants and parks will not provide any alcoholic beverages.

Handicapped athletes of 6 Arab countries begin training camp

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt." This is the oath for the Special Olympics for the Mentally Retarded: Ten Jordanian athletes, along with coaches and teams from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, Egypt, North Yemen and Kuwait took this oath at the opening of a training camp in Amman Sunday.

The training session, for athletes of the six Arab states participating in the 1991 Special Summer Olympics in the U.S., was opened by His Royal Highness Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid. Several athletes, including Hassan Aref of Jordan who participated and won a medal in the 1989 Special Winter Olympics, addressed the gathering.

"I am very happy to have won a medal and proud to be able to represent my country," said Aref.

People like Aref of all age groups have the chance to participate from Jordan and many other countries which have a Special Olympics programme. In addition to training athletes for the 1991 games, the objective of the Amman camp is also to train coaches and to introduce Special Olympics programme in each of the five other Arab states.

According to Yasser Salem, director of the Jordan National Olympics Committee, the special Olympics programme was introduced in Jordan in 1986 with a training school in the Hariri centre for the Mentally Retarded. "We now have around 400 athletes and sufficient coaches to train these athletes," Salem told the Jordan Times.

Competition, is not the main motivation behind the special programme, Salem explained. "It

seeks to help bring together all the people with mental retardation into the larger society under conditions whereby they are accepted, respected and given the chance to become useful productive citizens," he said.

Jordan participated in the Special Summer Olympics in 1987 for the first time and won nine medals, according to Salem. In the 1989 Special Winter Olympics Jordan sent three participants and won medals. "We are optimistic for the 1991 games" to be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Salem said.

According to Salem, Jordan is the only Arab country with such a programme for the mentally retarded.

Salem expressed hope that the programme at the Hariri Centre could be expanded to other areas of the country such as Sah, Zarqa, Kerak, Irbid and Aqaba where there are centres for the mentally retarded.

"We are also trying to develop the quantity because the special Olympics aims at participation rather than competition," he said. Out of 29 centres for the disabled in Jordan only 10 centres are participating in the games, Salem noted.

The Hariri Centre is also trying to make Jordan a regional place for the Special Olympics for the Middle East, with the help of the two trainers from the Special Olympics headquarters in Washington, Salem said. Steve Honder, executive director of Washington D.C. Special Olympics, and Kate Fraper, director of Gymnastics for Special International Events, spent around four years in Jordan training coaches and helping to develop the programme in the Kingdom.

"We train Jordanian coaches to make them competent enough in the sport so that they can go out there and teach the fundamentals of the sport to the athlete, and

with an understanding of how to deal with that person," said Honder.

According to Fraper, Special Olympics, an international organisation, has a membership of around 100 countries with special programmes and around 10,000 coaches. "Special Olympics began in 1968 and the programme is rapidly increasing in size," she said.

The mission of Special Olympics, according to Honder, is to provide year-round sports training in a variety of Olympic-type sports for all children and adults with mental retardation. "It gives these athletes opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy as well as to participate in sharing gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other athletes and the community," he said.

Jordan has made tremendous progress since it launched its special programme, Fraper said. "We are hoping that other Arab countries will start programmes so that a Middle East Special Olympics could be staged in the future," she said.

Salem agreed that it is important to have a Special Olympics programme in the Middle East, "for the benefits contribute to the physical, social and psychological development of mentally retarded people."

It helps them gain confidence through their success and to gain a positive self-image which reflects on the classroom, the home, the job and the community.

"An involvement in the Special Olympics causes a richer appreciation of the talents and a greater support between Special Olympics athletes, siblings and parents, thus uniting the community in an understanding of people with mental retardation," he added.

Asian sports journalists begin five-day seminar in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — The five-day Asian sports journalists seminar started here Tuesday.

Addressing the opening session, on behalf of Youth Minister Awqaf Khleifat, the ministry's Secretary General Asem Ghosheh said that the sports media constitutes a major incentive to encourage youth to practice sports and a basic contribution towards promoting love and innovation among the youth and the sports teams.

He pointed out that the ministry has been keen on setting up a federation for sports and youth journalists to look after the Jordanian sports journalists and

safeguard their rights.

This federation serves as the legitimate representative of the Jordanian sports media in the Arab Sports Press Association and the Asian and International Sports Federations.

Chairman of the Jordanian Sport Journalists Federation Nazmi Al Said praised the role played by the sports media in building the future generations.

The Asian Sports Journalists Federation President Abdul Muhsein Al Hussein said that sports media is a supplement to sports in the sense that it records the events and spreads awareness in sports.

Jordan Press Association President Hashem Khreisat also addressed the session, underlining the important role played by press in conveying the information.

Khreisat added that the role of the press is inseparable whether for sports or other events. He pointed out that there is an intention to unify all press specialisations under the IPA's umbrella.

Taking part in the seminar are representatives from Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, North and South Yemen, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain in addition to Jordan.

Khayyat returns after signing accords in Brunei, Indonesia

AMMAN (Petra) — Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat Tuesday returned home at the end of two visits to Brunei and Indonesia, during which he delivered two messages from His Majesty King Hussein to Sultan Hassanal Bulkiyah of Brunei and the Indonesian President Suharto.

At a press conference held at the ministry Tuesday, Khayyat

said that he initiated two memoranda of agreements with ministries of Awqaf in Brunei and Indonesia. The memoranda calls for enhancing bilateral relations with the peoples of Brunei and Indonesia and stressed the need for exchange of legislations and laws on Awqaf.

They also provided for offering the necessary facilities to enable the exchange of delegations,

scholars, ulamas, experts and preachers.

Khayyat noted that he discussed with officials in both countries a proposal for constructing two mosques carrying the name of His Majesty King Hussein in both countries, and two mosques in Jordan carrying the names of Sultan Bulkiyah and President Suharto.

JETT adds 20 new buses to its tourist transport fleet

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Express Tourist and Travel Agency (JETT) Tuesday added 20 new vehicles to its fleet of tourist buses, which operate on various routes. To mark the putting of the new vehicles into service, the company held a celebration, attended by Tourism Minister Yusef Hikmat, who presented the company with a token gift in appreciation of the company's

efforts over the last 16 years. JETT Director General Adnan Al Mufti outlined the importance of tourism in supporting national economy and promoting tourism in the various parts of the country.

Mufti said the company is keen on developing and modernising its fleet of buses to provide the best services. He pointed out that the company's fleet now compris-

es 115 buses.

Mufti said the company plans to operate a regular route from Amman to Kuwait and will expand its routes to cover Jerash, Madaba, Dead Sea, the Desert Castle, in addition to strengthening the Petra route.

The celebration was attended by the Transport and Telecommunication Minister and senior government officials.

Regent stresses importance of citizen-PSD cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday said that the close relation between citizens and the security men is based on cooperation and mutual understanding.

Prince Hassan noted that such a relation is governed by the inherited Jordanian values and the united family concept, which has been created by His Majesty King Hussein.

Prince Hassan was speaking at a meeting with Director of Public Security Department Major General Fadel Ali Fuheid, his assistants, a number of division heads and directors of police departments in the various governorates.

Prince Hassan said that the nature of the current stage which we are passing through and the social and economic changes affecting us, requires more awareness of its various dimensions and adherence to our values and national belonging.

Prince Hassan voiced satisfac-



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday visits the Public Security Department. Also present is PSD Director Major-General Fadel Ali Fuheid (Petra photo).

tion with the high standard the Public Security Department has achieved and stressed the need for continued and dedicated efforts to move this system to an advanced level and to cope with the recent developments in the country.

Maj-Gen. Fuheid expressed gratitude to King Hussein and

Prince Hassan for their care and continued support for public security, pledged to intensify efforts to develop and modernise the public security system and to enable it achieve its noble objectives. Fuheid said that all the public security personnel will remain loyal to the noble principles that King Hussein has charted.

Large quantity of 'bad cheese' seized in Zarqa

By Ghadeer Tabar
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — An anonymous tip has triggered a Ministry of Health investigation and uncovered a consignment of "bad cheese" in a warehouse in the Zarqa district before harm could be done to public health, the health minister said Tuesday.

Acting on the tip, which was received by the ministry by mail a week ago, complaining of a "bad smell" coming from white cheese sold by a particular warehouse in Zarqa, ministry officials raided the premises and seized 1,236 containers of white cheese, the minister, Dr. Zahair Malhas, told the Jordan Times.

"We are testing each container individually at an average of 10 to 20 a day," Malhas said. Tests conducted so far on 40 containers have found that contents of nine were normal while those of the rest were "unfit for human consumption."

The contaminated cheese had a "bad odour, slimy texture, insects, and a pink film, and some had human hair," according to a ministry report on the case.

In at least one container "we found 'staphylococcus aureus', which is a rounded germ that excretes an exotoxin," the minister said.

The danger in this germ is that even if the cheese and water are boiled and the germ is killed, that doesn't necessarily mean the exotoxin is neutralised. This exotoxin causes food poisoning, explained Malhas.

But so far, no case of food poisoning resulting from this particular type of cheese has been reported, according to Zarqa sources and the Health Ministry. "We haven't received any food poisoning cases, but we are checking everything," the minister said.

The origins of the contamination

have not been established yet, and tests are continuing. However, experts suggested several possibilities, including unorthodox or misguided manufacturing processes, handling by people carrying germs and "bad" containers.

"The manufacturing processes (of foodstuff) in general in Jordan is an area which urgently needs a thorough review," said Malhas.

Ministry of Health inspectors checked 78 restaurants and food stalls in Amman alone Monday for contaminated cheese and other foodstuffs that are susceptible to contamination. "We have not found this cheese in any other place except the Zarqa warehouse," Malhas said.

"We do not believe it was sold to other shops. The owner claims he only bought 1,236 containers of the cheese," he added. He declined to give the name of the owner of the warehouse, which is said to have been a regular supplier to sweetmeat shops in the Zarqa area.

Malhas denied rumours that sweet shops which use locally produced cheese to make the popular kanafah had been closed down by the ministry.

The approximate total retail value of the 1,236 containers each weighing about 15 kilograms to 17 kilograms — under examination at the Health Ministry is JD 30,000.

The potential health problem seems to be contained, but that does not prevent people from reacting to rumours, especially after it was discovered last month that unprocessed fat was smuggled in sewerage trucks and sold to many sweet shops and factories in the country.

"Now people are panicking everytime they hear a rumour," an official in Zarqa said. "This is a result of the samneh (cooking oil) scandal. People are over-reacting," he added. "But if the warehouse owner was aware that the cheese was bad then he

should be prosecuted."

Some Zarqa residents interviewed by the Jordan Times said that as soon as the affair surfaced they got rid of white cheese they had at home although nothing had appeared to be wrong with the substance. This is certainly not an unexpensive precaution since white cheese is indeed expensive.

"False alarm or not, we were worried about our health and that of our children," a young woman said.

Another one added: "Maybe there is nothing wrong with the cheese we have at home, but now I am more reluctant to buy such products."

A more confident resident said: "I think people are panicking about the cheese because of the samneh scandal. But we are aware of the situation because the Health Ministry now is being honest with people so if they don't sound an alarm over the cheese, I am not going to do anything," she added.

A shipment of about 800 containers of the same type of cheese exported to Saudi Arabia in July was rejected by the Saudis on the grounds that it was unfit for human consumption. The consignment was confiscated by the Health Ministry. According to ministry officials, the July consignment and the cheese seized last week are not related either through the buyers or sellers, but both were bought from the same general area in the country — Irbid.

"The cheese could have come from another country," a ministry source told the Jordan Times.

"We are still checking."

In a broader context, Malhas said Tuesday that the ministry was also maintaining a close watch on restaurants, including five-star and four-star establishments in town. "They have become safer now," he said. "We will keep checking as acutely as possible."

Ministry grants full accreditation to some community colleges

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Higher Education Tuesday granted full accreditation to some community colleges while it granted provisional general accreditation to others, in a bid to help community colleges develop their capacities and improve their educational and training potentials. The accreditation was granted to some of the colleges upon the recommendations of technical committees which have been formed to study the situa-

tions of community colleges.

In accordance with the committee's recommendations, a number of major disciplines were also accredited by the Higher Education Ministry, thus enabling students attending fully accredited community colleges and studying disciplines to join the Jordanian universities, provided that their average grades in the community college examinations should not be less than 75 per cent.

The Higher Education's coun-

cil decision Number 63 for the year 1986 has set the basis for the transfer of students from community colleges to the universities.

The decision stipulated that students should be graduates from fully accredited community colleges and studying accredited disciplines with an average grades of no less than 75 per cent in the community college comprehensive examinations.

Art exhibition

AMMAN (J.T.) — An exhibition of fifty paintings by Foad Mimi and 'Ammar Khammash opens Wednesday, Oct. 11, at the Scientific Cultural Centre of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.

In depicting the land and its culture, Foad Mimi's impressionistic works aim at creating harmony between colour and subject. He sets himself high standards of perfection in all forms of production, whether in his paintings, his writings, or his work as television producer.

'Ammar Khammash's watercolours are primarily a result of his direct interaction with and his thorough knowledge of the nature of the Jordanian landscape. Specifically, his works depict the continual mutual interaction



between a site and its inhabitants. Most importantly, they

are completed at the location which they depict.

Jordan Times

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Of good faith and principles

ONE IS AT A loss to find any precedent for all the ongoing commotion over the naming of a Palestinian delegation to initiate a dialogue with the Israelis. The naming of such a team of Palestinians, normally the sole prerogative of the Palestinian people, is now the focus of attention by many parties, including the U.S. and Israel. If the composition of any given Palestinian delegation to any given meeting must be dictated and approved by Israel and other foreign powers, no matter how well-intentioned they may be, how then can one expect the terms of any settlement that could ensue from such a meeting to be freely and justly negotiated?

It is a dangerous precedent in international relations to allow so much interference in the formation of delegations from any negotiating party. If the Palestinian side accepts such dictations right from the start there will be no end to their granting unreciprocated concessions. The Palestinian side would be better advised to stick to its guns and reject any interference in naming its own spokesmen in any futuristic negotiations with Israel. For, it is one thing to accept to negotiate peacefully with one's enemy and quite another to submit to its whims and conditions on superficial aspects of the negotiations. Had Israel accepted to negotiate in good faith with the Palestinian side, it would not have made an issue of who should speak for them. It is utterly outrageous on the part of any party to tell any other party who will be their representatives and all the current exchanges of views on the composition of the Palestinian delegation therefore bode ill as far as to the future of the peace negotiations; that is, if they ever get started.

Only by insisting to name their own delegation to the peace process will the Palestinian side be able to make sure that the other side means business and truly seeks accommodations with it. Any talks under the absurd conditions being imposed on the Palestinians now will for sure come to naught at the end. The international community has a stake in testing the seriousness of the Israeli side in negotiating in any given negotiation by encouraging the Palestinians not to yield on such a point as to the composition of their delegation.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday said that parliament to be elected next month, will be expected to join the executive and judicial authorities in controlling the destiny of the nation and directing its future policies. The paper cited a statement by the King as saying that the coming parliament should serve as a national institute in which the efforts of all sectors of the public can be pooled and incorporated for the sake of serving the country's national interests. The paper noted that parliament will not be entrusted only with the task of monitoring the executive authority's activities but should also enhance the process of bolstering national unity; and the deputies will be expected to undertake a serious endeavour to safeguard national interests by shouldering their duties and responsibilities. The coming parliament, the paper noted, should enhance the relationship with the judicial and the executive authorities in the Kingdom and boost the atmosphere of harmony with in the Jordanian family. The paper said that the King made this clear in his address to the nation in the past week, and predicted that the new parliament will usher in a new stage in the course of the Kingdom's construction and development.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily turns his attention Tuesday to the situation in southern Lebanon which is occupied by Israeli forces. Mahmud Rimawi cites Israeli General Peled as saying that his forces intend to stay for many years more in southern Lebanon to ensure Israel's safety. This statement is clearly intended to make the Arabs understand that Israel's main objective is to maintain its occupation of Arab land, creating buffer zones that can provide protection for its occupied territories in Palestine, and that its forces will never leave these zones no matter what the Arabs did. For Peled the southern Lebanese regions should remain under Israeli control in view of the complicated situations there; and unlike the other areas of Lebanon where peace is drawing near, the southern regions should be controlled by Israeli forces to ensure continued peace in areas close to Israel's borders, the writer notes. He says Peled has totally forgotten that the Lebanese people will sooner or later unify their ranks and turn their guns towards the south. The Lebanese are backed by the world community and the United Nations Security Council Resolution 425 which called on Israel to withdraw its forces from southern Lebanon, says Rimawi. The writer appeal to the Lebanese people to end their internal differences as soon as possible and embark on a new endeavour to liberate the occupied parts of their country.

Al Dastour daily newspaper on Tuesday recalled King Hussein's address to the nation in which he warned of further splits within the Arab Nation, and urged all Arabs to be aware of the dangers around them and to heal all rifts that divide them. The paper said that Jordan has always been calling for unity among Arab ranks and on Arabs to beware of developments in the international arena including the rapprochement between the United States and the Soviet Union and the favourable world situation. The paper said that the superpowers are now inclined to solve all regional issues peacefully and to cooperate in matters related to the protection of the atmosphere and the environment among other areas. This tendency is helping to solve regional issues, including that of the Middle East crisis; and therefore, the Arabs should be aware of developments in this direction lest a solution will be found at the expense of their own national interests, said the paper. It quoted the King as saying that unless the Arabs abstain from deepening their own side differences, the superpowers and other nations too might take decisions unfavourable for Arab interests.

A Socialist alternative for Japan

In September 1986, Takako Doi was elected the first woman party leader in Japan. In three years, she has transformed the image of the Japan Socialist Party, and led it to victory in the July Upper House elections — its first victory over the conservatives since 1948.

By Akihiko Tanaka

A CERTAIN Japanese political party is facing a crisis. Its attractive, eloquent leader, lacking a strong power base, has a hard time running the faction-ridden party. Can the party survive the changing political situation in Japan? Will it be a viable political force in the next century? The party in question is not Toshiaki Kaifu's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), but the Japan Socialist Party led by Takako Doi.

The JSP gained the most in July's House of Councillors election in which the LDP lost its majority in the Upper House for

the first time since the party's foundation in 1955. The charismatic Doi was largely responsible for her party's success. Nevertheless, as a result of its victory, the JSP faces the critical task of becoming a responsible political force, and Doi of becoming a leader who can be the nation's prime minister.

The most obvious and significant change is that the opposition now controls the House of Councillors. Even though the Upper House is constitutionally weaker than the Lower House, which has supremacy in budget making and the appointment of the prime minister, it can prevent a bill passed in the LDP-controlled Lower House from becoming law, because the government lacks the two-thirds majority in the Lower House to override a decision in the Upper House.

A taste of power

For more than three decades,

the opposition parties including the JSP have been the nay-sayers of the LDP's bills. But they have done so without proposing alternative policies of their own. Instead, they have become experts in filibustering tactics such as boycotting Diet sittings. The opposition has been able to resort to these tactics without paralysing the country because the LDP's majority in both houses ensured that all-important bills were passed.

This is no longer the case. The opposition parties, if united, can block almost any bill sponsored by the LDP. But if they block all LDP-sponsored bills without proposing alternatives, they run the risk of being written off as irresponsible. One can of course argue that, because the Socialists obtained a mandate from the Japanese public, they should fight for the policies they advocated during the election campaign.

The problem, however, is that many of the people who voted for the JSP did so first because they did not want to vote for the LDP, and second because they found in Doi a somewhat different politician not tainted by the professional politicking and insider dealings. The most critical element of the LDP defeat is its almost complete loss of seats in its traditional bastions — rural agricultural areas. But the farmers do not necessarily support the agricultural policy of the opposition, they simply showed their discontent with the LDP's agricultural policy.

Low marx for the JSP?

But the greater problem lies in the JSP itself. It does not seem ready to present coherent, practical policies of its own in many important areas. The party's constitution states that "the aims of

the JSP are to achieve a socialist revolution by peaceful, democratic means, and to preserve Japan's independence." Few of the JSP's new supporters or even party members believe in "a socialist revolution." Even Doi said after the victory that she would not introduce any radical measures if she became prime minister. The biggest task facing the JSP, then, is to elaborate and clarify exactly what it will do once it gains power.

During the election campaign, the Socialists promised that they would introduce a bill to abolish the consumption tax, the highly unpopular tax the LDP forced through the Diet last December, which is often cited as the main cause for the LDP's defeat at the polls. Until now, it has been extremely rare for the opposition parties to introduce a bill in the Diet. If they do, they will have to explain and defend a bill virtually

for the first time. In the past, all the opposition parties had to do was to question and criticise what the LDP presented. Now they have to prepare their own case to counter possible LDP attacks. Given the current weakness of the JSP's research and policy making staff, this is going to be a formidable task. But it should be a welcome challenge for the Socialists. If they succeed, it will give them a real chance to win power, and it will make Japanese politics much healthier and more constructive. If they fail, on the other hand, their victory in the last Upper House election may well turn out to be the beginning of the end for the Japan Socialist Party.

The author is an assistant professor in the Department of Social and International Relations at the University of Tokyo. The article is reprinted from Look Japan magazine.

Question mark hangs over homelands in S. Africa

By Anthony Barker
Reuters

JOHANNESBURG — President F.W. de Klerk has promised the black majority "a totally new South Africa", free of race domination.

But a key question remains unanswered as the government crafts its apartheid reforms: what will become of the 10 tribal homelands where millions of blacks live?

De Klerk is gradually working out a five-year plan to give blacks a role in the government of South Africa, departing from the policy that the black majority should have a political life only within a tribal context.

But so far the government has given no undertaking it will reverse the policy by which, since the 1960s, it has forced millions of blacks to live under tribal rulers in nominally independent homelands recognised only by Pretoria.

In its original form this "grand apartheid" effectively made many blacks foreigners in most of South Africa, allowed in white areas only as temporary guest workers.

Millions lost their South African citizenship. Many were forcibly uprooted and moved to poor rural areas which had been pro-

claimed self-governing territories.

Tribal leaders in four such homelands — Transkei, Venda, Bophuthatswana and Ciskei — accepted nominal independence, although this was never recognised by any other country or by many of their 5.5 million residents.

About 16 million of South Africa's 27 million blacks live in the homelands, according to Charles Simkins of the Urban Foundation, a private sector development agency.

The homelands are not even unified stretches of territory. Bophuthatswana, for example, is made up of seven fragments of land. They have no separate currency and use the South African rand.

South Africa keeps these areas afloat by subsidies, helping to pay for 10 governments and 10 cabinets.

In 1987/88, total revenue projections from the 10 homelands forecast 2.8 billion rand (\$1 billion) coming from internal revenue, 472 million rand (\$169 million) from loans, and 3.8 billion rand (\$1.4 billion) from Pretoria, according to figures compiled by the independent South African Institute of Race Relations.

Early hopes that industries could be lured to the homelands

by cheap labour, subsidies and tax breaks have been largely disappointed.

The lack of a new policy on homelands leaves a gap in de Klerk's reform proposals.

An aide to the politician in charge of reform policy, Constitutional Development and Planning Minister Gerrit Viljoen, said when asked for clarification that Viljoen did not want to comment at present.

Viljoen has in recent years said repeatedly that homelands must

remain. To drop them would be a spectacular reversal.

However, Chief Mangosuthu Buthezi, who works within the homeland system as head of self-governing KwaZulu while refusing independence, feels such a change may be possible.

In a letter last week to Transkei's rulers he said: "It is wrong of the Transkei now not to be actively working for the reintegration (into South Africa) of the Transkei, now that there is more

flexibility in South African government thinking..."

Transkei's military ruler Bantu Holomisa said: "There are no indications that such a proposal is on the cards."

Holomisa told Reuters that when he met former President P.W. Botha last year a change of homeland policy had been ruled out. He was still waiting for de Klerk to state his position.

"Strictly speaking, any change in the South African government would need to address the homeland," Holomisa said.

He said he did not want to rejoin South Africa under its current system but might rethink if Pretoria reformed the administrative structure, possibly by adopting a federal system.

"The decision for Transkei to go back to South Africa would be taken by the people through a referendum," he added.

Whether a change is coming or not, South Africa is seeking to incorporate its second biggest black township after Soweto, Botshabelo in the Orange Free State, into the Ova Ova homeland.

The proposal, strongly opposed by thousands of residents who marched in protest a week ago, would deprive 600,000 people of South African

nationality.

Trade union and other political rights are generally weaker in the homelands, which are poor and politically unstable.

Several homeland predecessors, including Holomisa's predecessors in Transkei, have been implicated in major corruption scandals. Lucas Mangosuthu of Bophuthatswana was saved from a coup last year by the intervention of South African forces.

Some homeland leaders have genuine popular followings. Like Buthezi or KwaZulu leader Enos Mabuza, who last month visited British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and who has contacts with the outlawed African National Congress guerrilla movement.

Mabuza has said publicly he does not believe in the homeland system. Even those who apparently stand to gain from the system, the traditional chiefs and leaders, are not all in favour.

"Traditional leaders — kings, paramount chiefs and queens — must stand together and join the masses and refuse the crumbs that Pretoria is giving them," declared Chief M. Mapumulu, head of the congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa, at the funeral of a Xhosa chief in Transkei last Sunday.

Can the Philippines recover the Marcos billions?

By Jeremy Clift
Reuters

MANILA — The Philippines has floated the idea of a deal with the family of Ferdinand Marcos to retrieve billions of dollars in cash and gold he allegedly stole during his 20-year rule.

Jose Cojuangco, the younger brother of President Corason Aquino and secretary-general of the ruling LDP party, said on Friday leaders were being sent to the Marcos family in Hawaii on the possibility of a wealth-for-burial swap.

President Aquino officially distanced himself from the proposal. "That is his own personal view," he told reporters, adding that he had no authority to negotiate with the family of Marcos, who died in Honolulu on Sept. 28, aged 72.

Aquino has barred a Philippine burial for the exiled former dictator she ousted in 1986, saying he remained "a malignant power" and a security risk to the country.

But Cojuangco said an envoy would be sent to Hawaii to explore the possibility of a deal with the Marcos family, who have been linked to an alleged plot to kill Aquino.

The suggestion a deal may be possible has been encouraged by reports that Marcos planned to return much of his wealth to the Philippine people in his will.

Two Manila newspapers on Sunday said Marcos had planned to donate the bulk of more than \$4 billion in gold deposits to his fellow countrymen through a Philippine foundation, but became too ill to sign the papers.

The Manila Times quoted a Philippine intelligence official as saying the Marcos gold was held with bullion traders and banks in New York, Hong Kong and Switzerland.

He said the gold was probably part of the so-called Yamashita treasure, named after Japan's World War II Philippine commander General Tomoyuki Yamashita, which was lost while being shipped back to Tokyo.

After Marcos died, Mateo Caparas, chairman of the Presidential Commission on Good Government set up by Aquino to recover Marcos's wealth, said he

expected the death to help in the task.

He said business associates of the former president might now be willing to come forward. Officials said those who testified could be offered a plea bargain or even escape charges.

Aquino's government is seeking \$100 billion in damages from the Marcoses and their business associates in 35 civil cases, charging them with "plunder of the nation's wealth."

The United States indicted Marcos in 1988 in a separate racketeering case that included charges he embezzled more than \$100 million from the Philippines government and used the money to buy three prime buildings in New York City.

A Philippine banker once close to Marcos told a parliamentary inquiry in Manila in July that Marcos and his wife held \$7.5 billion in Swiss bank accounts.

Swiss newspapers have said the Marcoses had at least \$1.5 billion in Switzerland, but justice ministry spokesman Joerg Kistler said most estimates were far too high.

"I think an estimate of around 200 million Swiss francs (\$120 million) is more likely," he added.

According to government charges, Marcos systematically set out from the start of his rule to rob the nation through a series of dummy companies, nominee bank accounts, agents and busi-

ness associates, making it "extremely difficult for an exploited, defrauded nation to detect and prosecute them."

Good-Government Commissioner Augusto Villarin said last week the Philippine government might intercede with the United States to drop charges against Marcos's widow, Imelda, if she agreed to return a substantial portion of her husband's wealth.

Imelda Marcos faces racketeering and fraud charges in New York and is free on \$5 million bail.

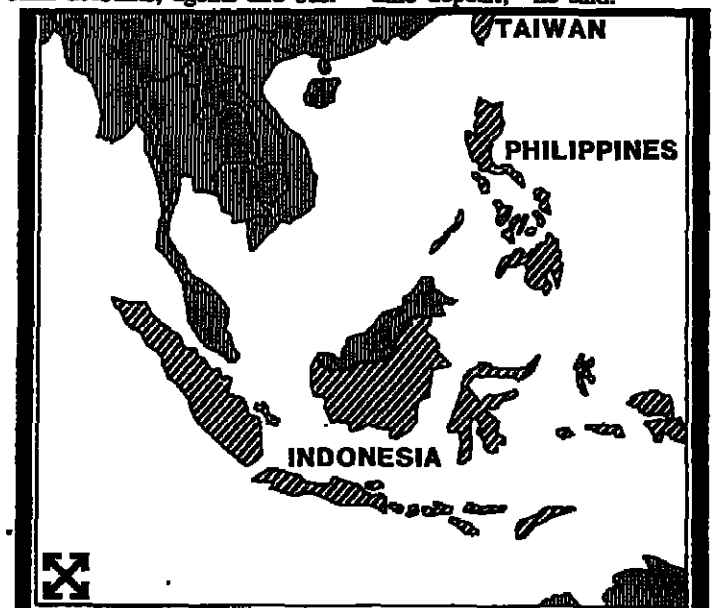
Mrs. Marcos said after the death of her husband that he intended to leave his wealth to the Filipino people.

"In his last will and testament, he commits his worldly possessions to the service of the Filipino people," she said.

She said she would be willing to negotiate with Washington and Manila to end the criminal and civil cases against her as long as she could retain her "innocence."

"A settlement and a solution which does not deprive one of one's dignity and innocence, I'm ready to sit down for that," she said.

Cojuangco spoke of a deal that would leave Mrs. Marcos with some of the money. "If the Marcos family still retains a billion dollars of this amount, they would still earn \$100,000 a day in interest if the money was put on time deposit," he said.



Corruption allegations fail to derail Brazilian frontrunner

By Ken Silverstein
The Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — Adversaries call leading presidential candidate Fernando Collor de Mello "inept," "disorganised" and a "public thief." They accuse him of corruption and handing out political favours to family and friends.

But the 40-year-old former governor continues to hold a big lead in advance of the Nov. 15 election, the first direct vote for president in Latin America's largest country in 29 years.

However, Collor de Mello has dropped from the almost invulnerable position he once held. In August, several polls showed that more than 40 per cent of the electorate favoured him, a level he had maintained for four months.

More recent surveys indicate his support has slipped to between 33 and 35 per cent. Left-wing populist Leonel Brizola, his closest and most vehement adversary, had only 14 to 15 per cent. If no one gets 50 per cent of the vote, the top two candidates would compete in a December runoff.

Collor de Mello, ideologically right-of-centre and virtually unknown in national politics before his campaign, is running as an independent. He promises to launch an all-out war on Brazil's notoriously corrupt state bureaucracy.

"There's a tremendous sense of moral outrage out there, a disgust with the status quo. Collor de Mello, running as the anti-candidate and anti-politician, has capitalised on it," said Eli Diniz, a political science professor at Rio's university research institute.

But political opponents claim Collor de Mello is guilty of the same type of corruption he vows to eliminate. "The man is a hoax," said representative Vivaldo Barbosa of Brizola's Democratic Labour Party.

In August, Barbosa delivered a 228-page report to the justice ministry documenting allegations of corruption during Collor's tenure as governor of the poor northeastern state of Alagoas from January 1987 to May 1989.

The accusations are being investigated.

The charges collide head-on with Collor de Mello's image as an austere corruption fighter who cracked down on politicians and public servants who had been living well off state money.

Collor de Mello is best known for his refusal while governor to pay the exorbitant salaries of an elite group of state employees, known as "maharajas."

Some of these functionaries, by getting paid for two or three government jobs they did not really perform, were amassing pay-checks of up to the equivalent of \$10,000 monthly. Brazil's minimum wage is about \$70 a month.

The former governor also has scored points by sharply criticising President Jose Sarney, whom many Brazilians blame for soaring inflation of over 1,000 per cent annually and rampant corruption.

Direct presidential votes were banned by a right-wing military regime that ruled the country in 1964-85. Sarney, the first new civilian chief, took office following an indirect vote by an electoral college made up of congressmen and state representatives.

Herbert de Souza, of the prestigious Brazilian Institute of Analysis and Statistics, said Collor de Mello's popularity will be seriously tested with the free television time given to major candi-

dates on all networks, based on their representation in congress, that began Sept. 15.

"The other candidates are using their TV time to go after Collor de Mello, and most people are now going to hear the allegations of corruption against him for the first time," Souza said.

The accusations include: — He gave a \$400,000 state contract to a business owned by a close political associate without competitive bidding. His campaign says the contract was legal and that no bidding was necessary.

— He named thousands to state jobs just before he resigned to run for president in May.

— He spent almost \$1 million on official propaganda extolling his administration's work during his last five months in office. Over half the money went to media outlets owned by his family. Collor de Mello countered that during his term, Alagoas was among the three states that spent the least on official propaganda.

— Around 1987, a state bank swapped a debt of \$124,000 with the family-owned business TV Gazeta in exchange for free ads on the station as well as on three radio stations and a newspaper also owned by the family.

— He spent more than \$1 million in funds intended for emergencies — over 50 times more than budgeted — between January and May.



Amnesties children

Children stimulate our protective instincts. Their vulnerability and innocence demand special care. Yet in countries all over the world children are unjustly imprisoned, tortured and killed by agents of the state.

PALESTINIAN children have been victims of human rights violations almost every day since the beginning of the *intifada* (uprising) in December 1987 in the Israeli occupied territories. According to United Nations figures, more than half the casualties recorded in the Gaza Strip during the first year of the *intifada* were under 15 years old.

Children have been shot dead by Israeli forces; others have been severely beaten, imprisoned after unfair trials and administratively detained without charge or trial. Many were involved in incidents in which stones or other missiles were thrown; others appear not to have been involved in any violent activities when they were shot or apprehended.

Eleven-year-old Samer "Aruri" was shot in the head by an Israeli soldier in March 1989 in the village of Silat al-Harithiyah. He had been playing football and ran away as soldiers arrived. Meanwhile in Gaza, 14-year-old As'ad Hammuda had been to the shops to buy medicines he needed because he had been beaten by soldiers some three weeks earlier. He too was shot in the head and killed by an Israeli soldier. Later in May 12-year-old Anton Shahin was shot dead in Bethlehem. He was throwing stones from behind a wall at soldiers positioned on a mound of earth above him, and was shot in the abdomen.

Children have received brutal beatings at the hands of Israeli forces. Fifteen-year-old Ra'ad 'Adwan was stopped by border police while riding his bicycle in Nabulus in April 1989. The soldiers demanded his identity card but being under 16 he did not have one. They then beat him so severely that he later needed intestinal surgery.

Israeli military courts have

sentenced many Palestinian children to prison after unfair trials, often for offences relating to stone-throwing, particularly during the first months of the *intifada*.

Others have been held in administrative detention, without trial. For example, in March and April 1989, Attiyah Shuykh, aged 17, and Muhammad Khilayil, aged 16, were served with six-month detention orders. They were held in the Ketzioz detention centre in the Negev desert. Here conditions are harsh and prisoners do not receive visits from their relatives.

Central and South America

Perhaps the gunmen who shot Jose hit him by mistake while trying to kill his father. The soldiers who beat 13-year-old Susana Tzoc Mendoza with the butts of their guns made no mistake. They attacked her because her father is involved in human rights work in Guatemala.

Uniformed soldiers and men in plain clothes burst into her home in November 1988 and when they failed to find her father, who had gone into hiding, beat her over a four-day period and left her vomiting blood.

She was not the only young relative of a Guatemalan human rights worker to be criminally abused by the armed forces. Iris Reyes Urizar is the niece of the president of an organisation that defends the rights of indigenous peoples. In February 1989 she was reported to have been captured by soldiers, taken to a military camp and raped. She is 15 years old.

In Peru large areas of the country are under military government and emergency legislation is in force. Increasingly, reports of "disappearances" are being re-

ceived from these areas. One recent victim was 17-year-old schoolboy Sergio Huamancusi Ramos.

A group of about 500 people—civilians and soldiers from a local army base—entered a peasant community in Angaraes province, Huancavelica department, in May 1989. Armed with shotguns and knives, they ordered villagers to gather in the main square. When the invaders left, they took two people, one of whom was Sergio. Witnesses say the two were taken to the Santo Tomas de Pata army base.

Their families and community leaders have not been able to find out any more about them, as the army refuses to acknowledge that they were detained.

Asia

In Sri Lanka the relatives of Kayathiri Viro, Sangaralingam have to live with that cruel uncertainty. The 10-year-old girl was arrested with her mother and two older sisters by soldiers of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) stationed in Sri Lanka. They were apparently suspected of supporting Tamil separatists.

A relative who went to the soldiers' camp that day was herself detained for a while and said she saw Kayathiri there although she could not speak to her. However, the IPKF has repeatedly denied that Kayathiri or her family are in its custody—appeals to the Sri Lankan and Indian authorities have not brought a response.

Kayathiri is one of over 800 people who have "disappeared" in Sri Lanka since 1983. The great majority were last seen in the custody of the Sri Lankan security forces but since Indian troops have been stationed in the island they have been accused of responsibility for dozens of "disappearances".

Children in Brazil are frequently the victims of police violence.

An estimated seven million live apart from their parents on the fringes of society, often in conflict with the authorities.

Allegations that the Brazilian police ill-treat young suspects in their custody are widespread. For example, three youths from Nova Vicosia in Bahia state were arrested in May 1987 on suspicion of burglary. Rodrigo Borges de Carvalho was 17 and Manoel Mendes dos Santos and Elias Lopes de Lima were about 16. After their release they said that they had been tortured for five days: beaten, whipped, sexually assaulted, suspended upside down on a bar—the *pen de arara* (parrot's perch)—and that their bodies had been burned with melted plastic. Elias Lopes de Lima had third-degree burns and died in hospital on 11 May 1987.

Although the police chief and four military policemen accused of the crime were freed after initially being arrested, no progress has been made in bringing those responsible to justice. All but one of the prosecution witnesses have retracted their statements—the remaining witness has been threatened with death by armed men.

In another case, Pedro de Almeida, 20, and Silas Abel da Conceicao, 18, were arrested on suspicion of robbery in September 1988. Silas was released on 26 September after a *habeas corpus* petition was obtained by his mother. Pedro was never seen again.

Silas said that the two had been tortured. He alleged that they had been hung by the wrists and ankles from the *pen de arara* and been beaten, given electric shocks and had jets of water forced up their nostrils. He said he had last seen Pedro de Almeida being dragged out of his cell by the hair, unconscious and bleeding from the nostrils, mouth and ears. He said he had been warned that he would be shot if he revealed what he knew.

Pedro's mother was told by the

police that her son had escaped but his escape has never been officially reported.

Silas refused to testify that Pedro had escaped and he hid for 11 days. On Oct. 7, 1988 he emerged from hiding and was last seen by witnesses in the grip of two of the police officers he had accused. His dead body was found later that day with a bullet in the back of the neck.

The lives of indigenous peoples in Brazil are increasingly under threat as they attempt to defend their land from incursions by ranchers, and by mining and timber companies. In March 1988, 14 Ticuna Indians, five of them children, were killed by gunmen allegedly led by a timber merchant.

The Indians were waiting to have a meeting with the military about acts of harassment by loggers on their reserve in Amazonas state when 20 gunmen fired on them. Four Indians were killed outright. The rest ran for cover in the forest and in a nearby house, or tried to escape in canoes.

One young boy escaped by hiding in a bread oven. Six-year-old Leila Valentina Marcos was in a canoe with a number of people who were all killed. Although she had more than 12 pieces of gun-shot lodged in her head, she survived by pretending to be dead. Her nine-year-old brother, Aldemir was killed.

Although 11 gunmen were later arrested and charged, the Federal Appeals Court rejected federal jurisdiction over the case. The federal arrest warrant for the man named as leader of the gunmen was waived on the grounds that his health was poor.

S. Africa, USA.

South Africa's jails hold many children: an estimated 9,800 were detained under State of Emergency regulations between June 1986 and June 1989. Many have said they were tortured in detention. They describe being



Six-year-old Jose Sotz Alvarez was shot in the spine by a bullet apparently intended for his father, a Guatemalan trade union leader.

After medical treatment in the USA, Jose took his first steps in April, aided by the braces he will need for the rest of his life.

beaten with whips, hooded, given electric shocks, and partially suffocated, with plastic bags or rubber tubing pulled over the face.

In a retrograde step deplored by human rights organisations around the world, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on June 26, 1989 that juveniles could be ex-

ecuted. By a narrow 5-4 majority, the Supreme Court ruled that the execution of juvenile offenders and the mentally retarded was possible under the U.S. Constitution, and did not violate its ban on "cruel and unusual punishment."

This decision was in clear con-

travention of international human rights treaties and standards prohibiting the execution of juveniles, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the American Convention on Human Rights, both of which the U.S. government signed in 1977 but has not ratified. Amnesty International.

Breaking a violent cycle

By Marguerite Johnson. Reported by Edmund Curran / Belfast.

THEIRS is the unsung side of life in Northern Ireland. Their story is one of handshakes in place of strife, of hope instead of despair, of cooperation between Catholics and Protestants. They are people like Sister Anna Hoare, an English-born Anglican nun, who has spent 17 years in Ulster trying "to bring people together in any possible way," and Terry Flanagan, the Protestant headmaster of Lagan College, an integrated school in Belfast, where the curriculum takes aim at the bigotry that begets violence. John Maxwell, whose young son died in the

terrorist attack by the Irish Republican Army that killed Lord Mountbatten ten years ago, helped found another integrated school at Enniskillen, 74 miles west of Belfast. Says he: "When something like that happens, you ask yourself, 'Isn't there anything that can be done?'"

Twenty years of sectarian strife in Ulster has taken a deadly toll: 2,757 civilians, soldiers and policemen killed and more than 20,000 injured. Ten thousand British troops help police in a province where deadlock between Protestants, who generally want to remain linked to Britain, and a Catholic community favouring closer ties with the Irish Republic has spawned unremit-

ting violence. Nonetheless, a movement of cooperation and partnership is stirring amid signs of a new willingness to break a deadly cycle in hope of a more peaceful future.

Armagh, 35 miles southwest of Belfast, bears the scars of I.R.A. bombs and has witnessed murders by Protestant extremists. Protestants live mainly on the east side of town, Catholics on the west. In the center but on separate hills stand the province's two principal cathedrals, one Protestant, the other Catholic. Douglas Hutchinson's Protestant ancestors came from England in 1626; Pat Brannigan's Catholic origins go back even further. In a show of cooperation previously

unthinkable, they are, respectively, chairman and vice chairman of one of Ulster's 26 district councils.

Hutchinson, an adamant Unionist, admits that "the relationship between the people here is definitely improving." Brannigan, who will never forget the night he saw Charles Armstrong, a Protestant council chairman, blown up in his car by an I.R.A. bomb, recalls the words of a Catholic bishop: "It is better to die having tried than to have lived and done nothing." Says Brannigan: "I think a lot of people feel our getting together is a great step forward."

In nearby Dungannon, the district council is evenly split —

eleven Protestants, eleven Catholics. Once that would have guaranteed acrimony; these days there is a mood of pragmatism. Last year, for example, it was agreed to alternate the chairmanship of the council every six months. Says Jim Canning, the first Catholic chairman: "There is no grand solution, but the best way to put the extremists out of existence is for those in the middle to come together."

In north Belfast, Sister Anna's tiny row house, dubbed Hope House, lies on the front line between tough Protestant and Catholic neighbourhoods. She says, "Fear is very corrosive. When people are not afraid, they relate to one another." Time.



Catholic and Protestant students study Irish history together at Lagan College

Pianos — key to elephant's survival

THE DISAPPEARING elephants of Africa and Asia leave mankind a legacy not only of the coveted beauty of carved ivory. They have also sweetened the world's music.

A delicate Chopin waltz may seem light years away from a lumbering pachyderm, but there is a tragic connection. It takes one elephant to make 32 pianos. Ivory is the substance used by all leading piano manufacturers to line the keys. Top concert

pianists insist on ivory because it is soft, cool, and its porous structure absorbs sweat.

Modern plastics are shunned because they have poor conductivity. Purity of tone suffers and performances are thus imperfect.

This is of little comfort to the elephant, for which one tusk equals 16 keyboards. Indeed, man's pursuit of art and purity has cost thousands of elephants their lives.

In the last ten years as many as

400,000 African elephants have been slaughtered for the commercial value of their tusks. For smart ornaments on the dresser, for billiard balls, knife handles, and piano keys.

Many of these animals have been the victims of poachers who can earn a year's wages with just one kill. The World Wide Fund for Nature estimates a decline in elephant numbers of around ten per cent a year, though in some countries the picture is far worse.

Scientists have developed an artificial ivory — a ceramic version — which conducts heat and

is porous. Until now simulated ivory has proved no match for the natural dentine of elephant tusks.

The new "ivory," which is now being fine-tuned for conductivity, weight and porosity, overcomes the objections of concert pianists to the unnatural "feel" of plastic.

Three of the world's leading piano manufacturers, Steinway of West Germany and Yamaha and Kawai of Japan, have decided to stop using ivory after present

stocks expire in about a year's time. Steinway produces about 14,000 pianos a year, while between them, Yamaha and Kawai produced nearly 1,200 luxury models last year.

The result of international and commercial moves against the traffic of elephant tusks will be a rapid escalation of the second-hand value of ivory, but this will have only marginal interest to the elephant.

Of much greater relevance to

the preservation of one of Africa's greatest animals, if not to a continuing ivory trade, is the vast stock of ivory known to be buried in the Siberian ice of the Soviet Union.

A distant ancestor of the elephant, the great Siberian mammoth, became extinct at least 10,000 years ago, but Soviet scientists continue to dig preserved carcasses out of the ice.

These finds have brought prospects of a reprieve to a small

West German community famed for more than two centuries for its ivory carvings but now facing economic ruin because of the West German ban on tusk imports.

The craftsmen of Erbach in Odenwald, who account for nearly a quarter of the annual world market in ivory, are negotiating with Soviet authorities to get one tonne of mammoth tusks a year to continue their traditions — Lion features.

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Jordan Times'
JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Economists warn of 'hostility' towards Gulf Arab investments

KUWAIT (AP) — Prominent economists Monday ended a three-day conference by warning against the risks of a "hostile political environment" to overseas Gulf investments.

Some 400 economists mainly from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states, along with the United States and Britain, were attending a symposium on the globalisation of financial markets and the impact this could have on GCC economies.

A final communique said the worldwide trend nonetheless had "positive" effects for the GCC countries.

"Although the globalisation of markets involves several positive effects due to the unprecedented liberalisation of capital movement across geographical borders... increasing miscellaneous risks have resulted from such trends including the creation of a hostile political environment to such investments," it said.

The communique added: "This requires the building up of a foreign investments strategy on the level of governments, institutions and individuals with a view to diversifying risks and alleviating their impact."

The statement apparently was alluding to petrodollar surpluses accumulated by the Gulf countries from the oil boom years and invested abroad, mainly in Western countries. Varying estimates have put these figures at up to \$350 billion.

The remarks reflected the increasing calls in the Arab World arguing in favour of shifting part of these investments to safer places following warnings by Western media that acquiring large stakes in Western firms by Arab investors could have political connotations.

These calls escalated after the British state watchdog Monopolies and Mergers Commission last year forced the Kuwait Investment Office, the country's overseas investment arm, to reduce stock it had bought in the giant oil firm British Petroleum to a ceiling of 9.9 per cent. The Kuwaitis had built up a 21.6 per cent stake.

Kuwait is grouped with Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates in the GCC which is an alliance of the oil-rich Gulf seeking to form a common market.

The symposium communique

called on the GCC countries "to prepare themselves to play their full role in the new international reality created by the integration of the world's financial markets."

This, it said, necessitated that the GCC countries "pursue a number of approaches including the merger of local financial institutions in order to upgrade their competitiveness in the world of giants and the comprehension of the new innovations and instruments."

Referring to the emergence of a unified European market after 1992, the communique said "coexistence with the world of international economic blocs necessitates that the GCC countries coordinate their fiscal and monetary policies within the framework of a more comprehensive Arab strategy."

On the issue of international debts, also debated by the symposium, the communique warned that the problem "poses dangers which threaten the world's economic and political stability."

It said the problem cannot be handled within the concept of profits and losses "because it involves extremely humanitarian dimensions particularly in the case of the poorer Third World countries."

Earlier, the financial experts were told that they must make urgent changes to avoid being brushed aside in an increasingly unified international marketplace.

"Unless such policies are adopted, the Gulf states may find themselves at the losing end, both geographically and financially reduced to a marginal position on the sidelines... of the international market," said Abdul Latif Al Hamad, chairman of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

Ibrahim Shukri Dabdoub, chief general manager of the National Bank of Kuwait, said immense upheavals in international banking would lead to a major restructuring of banks in the Arab World.

"While we have to recognise that the golden era of Gulf banking is behind us, there are many opportunities for continued

prudent growth for these banks which can adapt to these challenges," he said.

In a paper presented to the conference, Hamad said the GCC states had several advantages.

These included their geographic location between Europe and Asia and their financial surplus from oil revenues.

But he said the Gulf market was tiny compared to other financial powers. The total assets of the region's 43 banks were a mere \$148 billion in 1987 compared to \$384 billion for a single bank in Japan.

To avoid being overwhelmed, the Gulf states needed to take several measures, Hamad said. The management of local financial institutions must be improved, specialised institutions modernised and consultancy houses established.

In addition, he said, training should be stepped up, new financial instruments introduced, investors educated and legislation to regulate markets enacted.

"The new international financial situation requires that GCC financial institutions cooperate

with one another," Hamad said.

"Such cooperation may take several forms. At the very least, it entails information exchange and coordination of operations, with collective participation in some operations. At best, it entails the undertaking of mergers," he noted.

Hamad suggested that Gulf banks should buy small and medium-sized financial institutions overseas to gain experience, information and footholds in other markets.

But Graham Bishop of Salomon Brothers International Ltd said Gulf banks might be left out of a unified Europe in 1992 unless the GCC opened up to foreign banking.

Before the European Community would allow foreign banks to branch freely into its markets, he said, it would demand that its own banks must receive the same treatment as local banks and effective access to the local market.

"If your national system does not meet these tests, when it may be more difficult," he told the conference.

Amman, Riyadh widen cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary-General Muhammad Al Saqqaf and the Saudi under-secretary of ministry of finance and national economy for international cooperation affairs, Usama Al Faqih, Monday signed minutes of the Joint Jordanian-Saudi Economic Committee meetings, which dealt with all scopes of bilateral cooperation.

Under the agreement, concluded Monday, the two sides stressed the importance of commercial cooperation and called for increasing the volume of commercial exchange. The two sides agreed to hold specialised exhibitions in both countries in 1990 and to open the door for direct sale during the exhibition periods.

The agreement provided for exchange of visits between Jordanian and Saudi businessmen and for facilitating their movement between the two countries.

The agreement called for holding a meeting of experts on specifications and metrology from both countries and for overcoming all difficulties facing the exchange of goods between the two countries.

Under the agreement, both countries will continue to grant exemption from customs duties and waive the condition of obtaining import licences in respect of goods exchanged between the two countries.

The two officials also agreed to exempt passengers and cars from both countries from all taxes and fees to facilitate the passage of

goods and passengers to both countries.

The minutes called for holding a meeting for officials from the national airlines in both countries to organise the air transport.

The two officials also agreed to convene a meeting for officials from the Royal Scientific Society and King Abdul Aziz Centre for Science and Technology to discuss means of implementing the protocol, concluded between them in 1986.

The Jordanian side to the meeting offered to supply Saudi Arabia with experts in the areas of fertiliser industries, meteorology and telecommunications.

Jordan Computer Society reviews copyright protection

AMMAN (J.T.) — A special meeting was held in Amman Monday by members of the Jordan Computer Society (JCS), to discuss a draft copyright law as it will pertain to computer programs and software.

The meeting was sponsored by JCS in conjunction with the Private Services Development Project (PSDP), and chaired by Mr. Khalid Kilani, head of the society's sector development committee. In attendance were representatives of a number of Jordanian software development companies plus other interested individuals.

The general subject of the meeting was a discussion on copyright protection for computer software. As a basis for the meeting, participants were provided with copies of the drafted Jordanian law, existing Arab League regulations, extracts from

the U.S. and British laws, and related articles.

The discussions centered around the needs for such legislation in Jordan — to protect local developers, to facilitate investments in the Kingdom which are not now encouraged because of the absence of such protective laws, and to strengthen international competition by Jordanian firms.

Special mention was made of the "Berne Copyright Union," which to date has not been generally supported by countries in the region. If adhered to by Jordan, it was noted, such support would aid local organisations in their efforts to establish their intention to abide by internationally accepted copyright standards.

In the course of the meeting, attention was called to the fact that although the Jordanian draft copyright law mentions computer programs, it does not define what is meant by the term nor does it address related topics such as documentation and program design. An additional subject of interest voiced at the meeting was the question of future enforcement of a copyright law and its implication on ethical business practices throughout the Kingdom.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

ACC contractors approve new measures

CAIRO (Petra) — The Higher Council of Contractors in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) states Tuesday adopted a number of decisions and recommendations designed to bolster inter-ACC cooperation in the area of contracts and consulting services. In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, President of the Jordanian Contractors Association, Ali Abu Al Ragheb, said that the council approved the internal statute, which sets out the council's objectives. Participants also approved the structure of the Higher Council and agreed on Amman as the headquarters for the Council, Abu Al Ragheb noted. He added that the council has decided to take part in the meetings of the four committees which have been formed to implement the cooperation agreement in the field of housing and reconstruction. The council's Secretary-General Abdullah Al Rousan submitted a report on the council's activities and the achievements since its establishment in April.

ACC to discuss social security issues

AMMAN (Petra) — Directors of social security corporations in the four Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) member states — Jordan, Iraq, North Yemen and Egypt will meet here Nov. 4 to discuss scopes of cooperation in the field of social security and the possibility of unifying social security legislations.

Morocco gets \$123 loan from ADB

RABAT (R) — Morocco has received a new loan of \$123 million from the African Development Bank (ADB), making it the biggest of the bank's 49 borrowers. The loan will help to finance economic reforms agreed as part of a liberalisation programme drawn up by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF). Morocco, eighth in the world bank's list of the most heavily-indebted Third World countries, has now received \$1.3

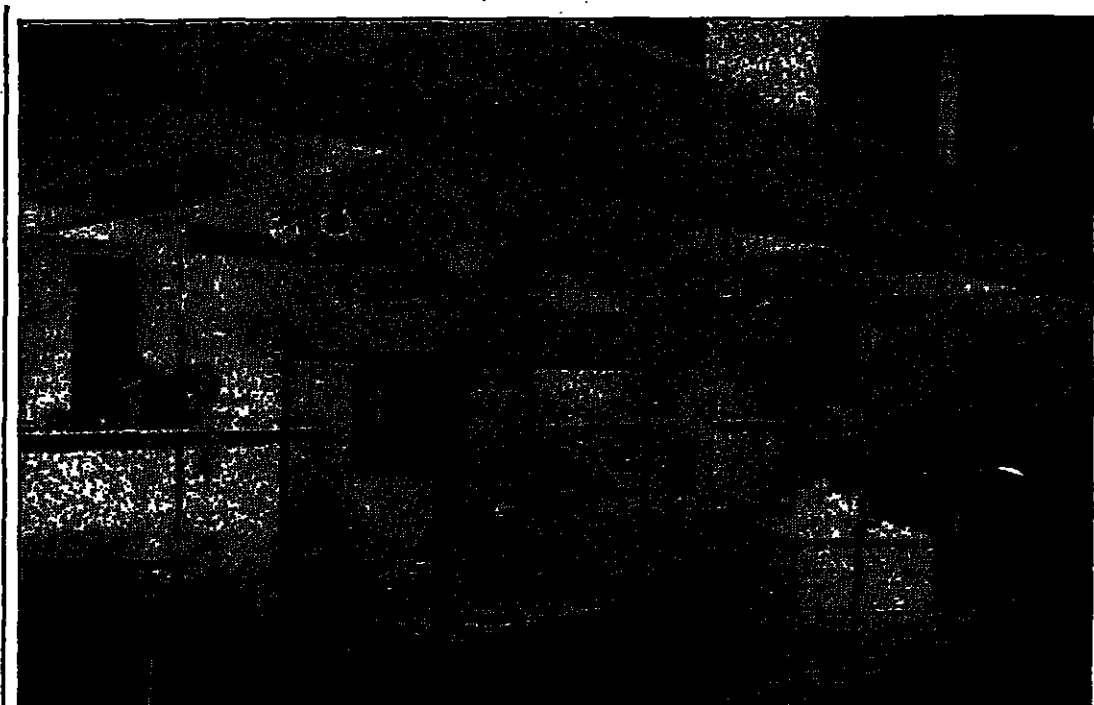
billion from the ADB. Its total foreign debt stands at about \$22 billion. ADB President Babacar n'Diaye told reporters the loan was designed to help efforts to liberalise foreign trade and support fresh public investment. The annual inflation rate was only just over two per cent last year, while the budget deficit was cut by almost one fifth. Morocco is now negotiating with private banks for a reduction in its debt servicing.

Tourism spending in U.S. rises 19%

WASHINGTON (R) — Foreigners visiting the United States spent \$20 billion in the first six months of 1989, a 19 per cent rise over the same period in 1988. Data showed that foreign visitors in the United States spent \$118 million more than the \$19.9 billion Americans spent abroad in the first six months of 1989. Japanese tourists topped the list by spending \$2.7 billion, an increase of 19 per cent from the same period in 1988, followed by Canada (\$2.5 billion) and Mexico (\$1.5 billion). The United States reported travel surpluses of \$2.6 billion with Japan and \$1.4 billion with Canada. In addition, the United States recorded a surplus in international passenger fare accounts, earning the country \$4.6 billion from visiting foreigners in the first six months of 1989. That compared to the \$452 million Americans paid to international airlines.

Aden readies major oil pipeline

ADEN (R) — South Yemen will start pumping oil through a Soviet-built pipeline by the end of the year, a Yemeni official has said. Mubarak Ba-Mahmoud, head of exploration at the oil ministry, said 180 kilometres of the 200 kilometre pipeline from the northeastern Shabwah region to an export terminal on the Gulf of Aden had been laid. He told the Aden News Agency the pipeline would be operational by the end of 1989. The Soviet Union agreed in June last year to help South Yemen build the pipeline which has an initial capacity of 100,000 barrels per day.



General view of Jordan's stand at the 1989 27th Overseas Import Fair in Berlin

Jordan expands range of products at 'Partners for Progress' fair

WEST BERLIN (Agencies) — Jordan's export industries were represented by a wide range of industrial and consumer goods at the Overseas Import Fair in Berlin.

The Overseas Import Fair "Partners for Progress" took place for the 27th time on the Berlin Exhibition Grounds from Sept. 27 to 30, 1989. Organised by AMK Berlin, and with the support of numerous national and supranational agencies and organisations, it occupied eight halls, with a net display area of 26,504 square metres.

A total of 923 exhibitors and 344 additionally represented firms and organisations from 69 countries and territories presented their export products to the many representatives of the German and European export trade.

In addition to meetings between politicians, trade promo-

tion organisations and overseas exporters, this year the Overseas Import Fair also featured a special seminar devoted to leather products. For more than a quarter of a century the fair has assisted many exporters from developing countries to familiarise themselves with the requirements of European markets.

Jordan has had a long and effective association with the Overseas Import Fair in Berlin, and this year, under the coordination of the Jordan Commercial Centres Corporation, and headed by Mrs. Wafa Awamleh, twelve companies displayed items from their export programme at the Overseas Import Fair.

The display was an impressive indicator of an ambitious export development policy, and featured traditional exports such as handicrafts and fancy goods, suitcases and sports bags, fleece carpets and clothing, as well as phar-

maceutical and medical products, and computers. The latter aroused particular interest among a number of trade visitors.

Attendance at events such as the Overseas Import Fair reflects the growing volume of trade between Jordan and Europe.

During the fair, the buyers from the Federal Republic of Germany and other European countries visited the stand and displayed keen interest in many of the items on display. The fair regularly attracts representatives of leading department stores, mail order companies and wholesalers from the Federal Republic of Germany and other European countries too.

Regular participation in the Overseas Import Fair Berlin is helping exporters to acquaint themselves with changing European requirements, and acquire exporting knowhow.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, October 10, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	97.6	98.6
U.S. dollar	624.2	630.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	437.8	442.2
Pound Sterling	984.2	994.0	Dutch guilder	293.1	296.0
Deutschemark	330.9	334.2	Swedish crown	86.3	87.3
Swiss franc	379.6	379.6	Italian lire (for 100)	45.2	45.7
			Belgian franc (for 10)	157.2	158.8

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.5690/700	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.1746/56	Canadian dollar	
	1.8870/77	Deutschemark	
	2.1310/17	Dutch guilders	
	1.6475/85	Swiss francs	
	39.66/69	Belgian francs	
	6.3980/4030	French francs	
	1384/1385	Italian lire	
	143.35/45	Japanese yen	
	6.4850/900	Swedish crowns	
	6.9900/50	Norwegian crowns	
	7.3525/75	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	362.20/362.70	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Shares slipped to a weaker close due to concerns about the performance of Rupert Murdoch's News Corp Ltd and a fall in London share prices Monday. The All Ordinaries index fell 17.5 to 1755.8.

TOKYO — Market closed for Athletics Day.

HONG KONG — Strong institutional and overseas buying, tempted in by a sharp slide this morning, drove Hong Kong's Hang Seng index up 17.83 points to a fifth consecutive post-June 4 high of 2,844.04.

SINGAPORE — Prices closed narrowly mixed after selected and speculative buying alternated with light profit-taking. The Straits Times industrial index inched up 0.73 to 1,420.91.

BOMBAY — Market closed for Hindu festival.

FRANKFURT — Prices closed lower after profit-taking eroded early gains. But one dealer said it was unlikely that the market would surrender much of its recent advance. The 30-share real-time DAX index slipped 3.14 to 1,636.41.

ZURICH — The market was slightly weaker on uncertainty triggered by marginally higher short-term interest rates. The all-share Swiss performance index shed 2.0 to 1,194.5.

PARIS — Prices closed stronger after a busy session dominated by intense speculative interest in the merchant bank Paribas. The CAC-40 index gained 19.20 to 1,961.74.

LONDON — Equities were sharply lower after a consultant to a leading British brokerage house forecast that the FTSE 100 index would plummet to around 1,800 at some time next year. The index lost 28.2 to 2,218.8.

NEW YORK — Blue chips came under light profit-taking and analysts said there was little in the news to support any further strong market gains after a recent surge. The Dow was down four at 2,788.



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GEMID
URUGA
SCUSID
TENGLA

Here's your new regimen

WHEN THEY REACH MIDDLE AGE, MANY PEOPLE ARE REDUCED TO THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: GUMBO BRIAR FORKED CROUCH
Answer: She can dish it out, but can she do this? — COOK IT

Peanuts

Mutt'n' Jeff

Andy Capp



East German city leaders agree to talks with protesters

EAST BERLIN (R) — Officials in two East German cities turned to dialogue with pro-reform demonstrators Tuesday only days after police broke up the country's biggest street protests in decades and made mass arrests.

In a possible switch of tactics from force to persuasion, the mayor of Dresden opened talks with protesters, and three top Communist Party officials in Leipzig agreed on the need for similar meetings.

"It's a hopeful sign," said one church source in Dresden, where 90 were injured in the worst violence to mar ceremonies last week marking East Germany's 40th anniversary.

But hardline communist leader Erich Monecker, out of step with reformist Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, has rejected pleas to modify his policies, saying East Berlin would stick to its proven course.

Western diplomats said East Berlin was sending out mixed signals and it was too early to say whether the dialogue in the two hotspots was genuine or a tactic to buy time.

East Germany's official media made no reference to the moves

towards dialogue and continued Tuesday to portray pro-reform demonstrators as rowdies.

But in another sign of a more lenient approach, police did not intervene as more than 50,000 people staged a noisy but non-violent march through Leipzig Monday night in the biggest demonstration since a failed 1953 uprising.

In Dresden, 20 demonstrators held unprecedented talks with city mayor Wolfgang Berghofer and agreed to meet again next Monday. Activists at the talks said Berghofer promised to free all non-violent protesters held in five nights of unrest.

"What we have discussed today is of such fundamental significance that we cannot cover it all in three meetings," they quoted the mayor as saying.

In Leipzig, Pastor Christoph Wonneberger told West German television that the city's radio station had broadcast a pledge by

local party chiefs to work toward dialogue with activists seeking a better way of life.

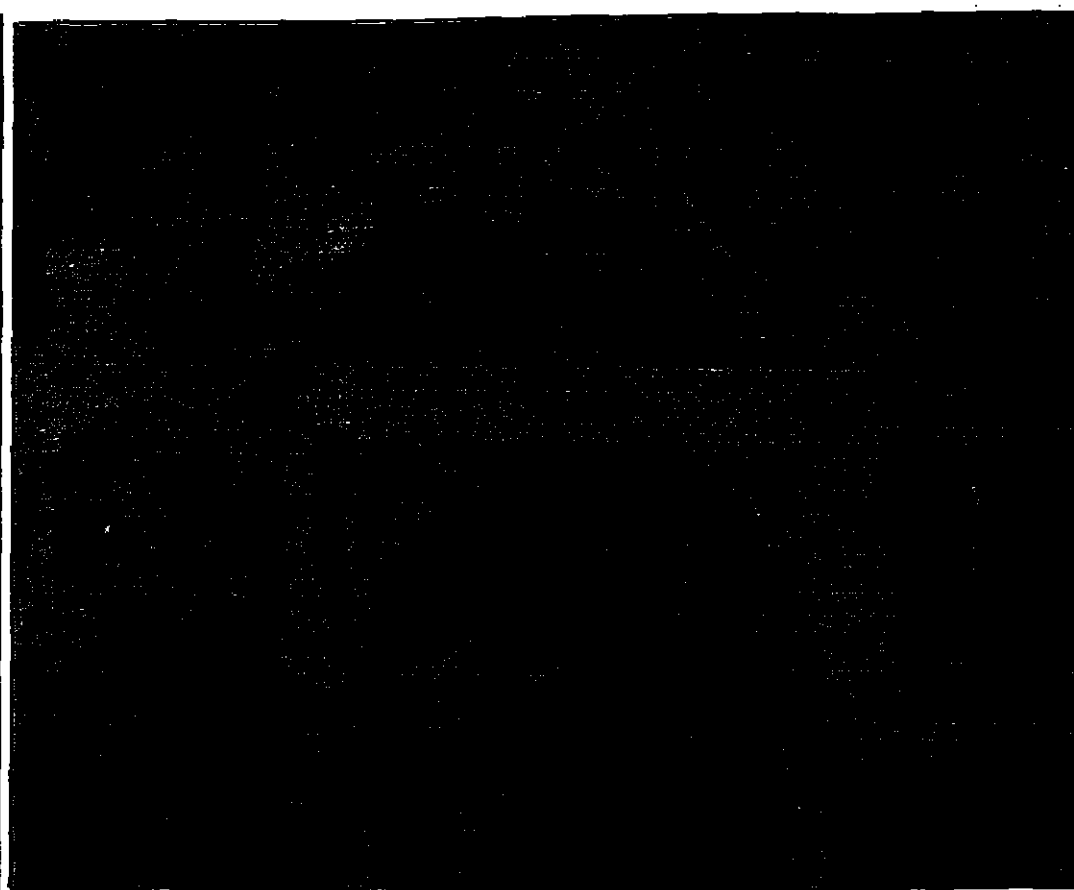
"It's difficult to say whether this reflects a change in policy at the top level," he said.

Forceful suppression of earlier street rallies in major cities heaped bad worldwide publicity on a government already hit by the Westward exodus of 45,000 of its citizens in the last month alone.

A television commentator called protesters "troublemakers without heads" while the party daily Neues Deutschland devoted two pages to cataloging the demonstrations, which reached their pitch at the weekend.

One commentary, scolding Western reports that the protests were peaceful and the police brutal, said demonstrators shouted at one young policeman: "We're going to cut your belly open. We'll remember your face."

Neues Deutschland said the demonstrators, already branded neo-Nazi thugs Monday, were rowdies intent on disturbing law and order and undermining the communist state.



Tibetan refugees in New Delhi, holding a picture of the Dalai Lama, celebrate the Nobel Peace Prize.

Peking: Nobel for Dalai Lama a Western plot

PEKING (R) — China denounced Tuesday the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to the Dalai Lama as part of a secret Western plot to split the country and restore a feudal system in Tibet.

The accusation added a new dimension to China's recent increasingly xenophobic attacks on "hostile foreign forces" it charged had helped to trigger nationwide anti-government protests that were crushed by the army in June.

The People's Daily, the Communist Party newspaper, said the Nobel Peace Prize had "become a tool for certain people in Western countries to achieve their secret purpose."

"The West's scheme... is to whip up and support the Dalai clique in their plot to destroy China's unity of nationalities and split the motherland," the hard-line commentary said.

Oslo's Nobel Committee was seeking to return Tibet to the feudal society that existed before the Communist Chinese army entered Tibet in 1950, the newspaper added.

It described the award as "preposterous" and said it had enraged the Chinese people.

The Dalai Lama, spiritual and temporal leader of Tibetans, fled his homeland in 1959 after an abortive uprising against Chinese rule and lives in exile in India.

He was awarded the prize last week for his non-violent "struggle for the liberation of Tibet," the Nobel Committee said.

The People's Daily charged the Buddhist leader's agents of involvement in repeated pro-independence demonstrations that have rocked Tibet since September 1987.

The newspaper failed to name any government or individual behind the alleged destabilisation of Tibet.

China says it has ruled Tibet since the 13th century, a claim disputed by the Tibetan "government-in-exile" which is based in India. No country recognises Tibet as an independent country or disputes China's sovereignty over it.

Lhasa, the ancient capital of the Himalayan region, has been under martial law since March

when a spate of anti-Chinese protests drew fierce retaliation by police.

China has also charged that a Western conspiracy encouraged the student protests in Peking earlier this year in a bid to undermine Communist rule. China's leaders said the party was in danger of overthrow, but have offered no evidence the West was behind the pro-democracy movement.

The deputy municipal Communist chief of Peking told officials at a recent meeting that there must be no relaxation in tracking down "counter-revolutionary forces" that organised the protests, the Peking Daily newspaper said.

It quoted Li Qiyun as saying some major cases had been cracked and more investigation of work units involved in the protests was needed.

Police have declined to say how many people have been arrested in connection with the protests since June. One Chinese source put the figure at 10,000 in Peking alone.

Arms on Armenia flight-KGB

MOSCOW (R) — Large amounts of arms and ammunition were found hidden in a helicopter chartered by Armenians to send vital supplies to the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, according to the KGB.

The discovery of the weapons last Friday, disclosed to TASS news agency by the KGB security police Monday, is certain to exacerbate tension in the territory claimed by two neighbouring southern republics, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Reports from the area at the weekend said people were being killed every day in Nagorno-Karabakh by Armenian and Azerbaijani gunmen attacking each other's villages. More than 100 people have been killed in clashes over the territory in the past 19 months.

The KGB said the MI-26 helicopter was chartered by the Armenian organisation Mercy to fly flour and technical equipment to the enclave, populated mainly by Armenians but under Azerbaijan's jurisdiction for more than 60 years.

Soldiers unloading flour from the helicopter found hunting rifles, 52 home-made grenades, more than 150 detonators and fuses and several hundred rounds of ammunition.

"G. Maltsev, captain of the crew, said neither he nor any members of the crew knew anything about the weapons," TASS said, adding the helicopter took off from the town of Goris, just inside Armenian territory.

"Following the discovery of the weapons aboard the aircraft, checks have been stepped up at airports and all landing areas in (Armenia)," he said.

Road and rail links to the territory have been blocked for several months. Some areas have had to rely on military planes for food.

A spokesman for the Moscow-appointed body administering Nagorno-Karabakh since the beginning of the year said Sunday that the situation in the region had deteriorated seriously and shots were being exchanged constantly.

The weekly Moscow News quoted pilots flying supplies into the region as saying they had spotted training camps for insurgents.

All in a dog's life

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. army said Monday it will go ahead with controversial bone-healing experiments on greyhound dogs despite protests by animal rights activists. But it said it will ensure that owners of any greyhounds it buys in the future know that their dogs are going to be used — and killed — in the experiments. "At this time, we feel the experiments are very legitimate, but the programme is on hold, at least until we get dogs for the experiments to begin," said an army spokesman. The tests, to be conducted at the army's Presidio base in San Francisco, are aimed at improving healing prospects for injured troops. They involve removing a piece of bone from a greyhound's hind leg and replacing it with a new bone-repair compound. After a healing period of eight to 10 weeks, the dog will be killed and its leg subjected to stress tests.

Something fishy on the Orient Express

PARIS (R) — French customs agents seized 200 kg of contraband Russian caviar on the Orient Express during a stop in Strasbourg, a customs spokesman said. The caviar, sealed in 101 tins and valued at about one million francs (\$155,000), was found during a routine customs check after the train, travelling from Bucharest to Paris, crossed the border from West Germany into France. It was hidden in the luggage of two Guinean passengers who admitted buying it in East Berlin to smuggle West in the hope of making a big profit.

Army blows up trapeze artist's van

BLACKPOOL, England (R) — A Mexican trapeze artist became the first victim of a massive security operation at the Conservative Party conference in Blackpool when his van was blown up by British troops. Gerardo Rodolgo, late for his act at a circus Sunday night, left the Dutch-licensed van in a no-parking zone just metres from the venue of the party's annual meeting in this northern English seaside resort. Minutes later police sealed off roads and a spokesman said they called in army bomb disposal experts to carry out a "controlled explosion." Security has been very tight at Conservative Party conferences since their 1984 meeting when a bomb planted by Irish Republican guerrillas almost killed Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. This year's conference started Tuesday.

Ginkgo smell upsets Michigan residents

MONROE, Michigan (AP) — Most Michigan residents enjoy the colours of the autumn leaves, but people in Monroe are not happy with the aromas when the ginkgo tree turns rust. The ginkgo dates back 200 million years to the era of dinosaurs. And, residents say, every fall it smells like it. "It smells just like a baby's dirty pants. Really," said Marie McNair, a member of the Friends of Dorsch Library. "I smelled it for years." Since 1865, a ginkgo has been standing in front of the Dorsch Library in this town, southwest of Detroit. The female tree, which originates from eastern China, bears an edible fruit whose hull emits a strong odor into the fall air. Monroe's annual Ginkgo Mania Festival, which began last week, includes a contest to determine what day the dorsch tree's leaves will drop its leaves. Ginkgoes shed their leaves in a matter of hours.

Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	07	45	11. 52 Cloudy
ATHENS	X	X	X X X
BAHRAIN	28	82	33 91 Clear
BANGKOK	28	77	34 92 Clear
BUENOS AIRES	09	49	18 84 Clear
CAIRO	20	86	34 93 Clear
CHICAGO	00	32	14 58 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	07	46	11 58 Clear
FRANKFURT	09	45	11 55 Cloudy
GENOVA	07	45	13 55 Cloudy
HONG KONG	24	75	27 81 Clear
ISTANBUL	17	68	28 82 Clear
LONDON	10	50	15 59 Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	17	82	22 77 Clear
MADRID	08	45	25 77 Clear
MECCA	25	77	44 111 Clear
MONTREAL	01	30	08 48 Cloudy
MOSCOW	01	30	07 45 Clear
NEW DELHI	38	96	22 72 Clear
NEW YORK	10	59	14 57 Cloudy
PARIS	10	52	14 57 Cloudy
ROME	12	54	17 83 Cloudy
SYDNEY	12	54	22 72 Clear
TOKYO	12	54	21 70 Clear
VIENNA	08	45	14 56 Clear

Panama opposition demands account of crushing of coup

PANAMA CITY (R) — Opposition leaders in Panama have demanded a detailed account of the crushing of last week's coup attempt after the officer who led the uprising was buried amid questions about how he and other rebel soldiers died.

Major Moises Giroldi, one of 10 rebels said by military spokesmen to have been killed trying to topple strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega, was buried Monday after a low-key ceremony at a Panama City church.

A woman who said she was Giroldi's niece told reporters his body bore signs of torture. Former opposition presidential candidate Guillermo Endara said there had been many deaths, some of them unexplained.

Noriega's spokesman, Major Edgardo Lopez Grimalko, said emergency measures drawn up in the wake of the coup were imminent. Ruling party officials have said they will control the press, financial transactions and movement in Panama.

The pro-government media

said the measures were necessary to confront U.S. aggression.

In the United States, President George Bush came under growing attack from critics who said he failed to take the opportunity to dislodge Noriega, Panama's de facto ruler, who has withstood 18 months of U.S. efforts to oust him.

The Wall Street Journal likened the affair to the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961 by Cuban exiles backed by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Panamanian opposition leaders called on the authorities to give a detailed account of how many rebels died in last Tuesday's fighting and in what manner they were killed to counter rumours sweeping the country.

"There have been many deaths, in many cases inexplicable, which have given rise to all kind of doubts. For the good of the country, all these deaths must be explained and in detail," Endara told reporters.

The woman describing herself as Giroldi's niece told reporters

she had helped dress his body. He had various bullet wounds and his leg, skull and a rib were broken "as if he had been tortured," she said, refusing to give her name.

Another relative who would not give his name said he had been told by an army officer that 12 rebels had been killed after the coup was over.

The military said 10 people died in fierce fighting between rebels and forces loyal to Noriega around his Panama City headquarters and 37 rebels were arrested.

An opposition human rights group and some diplomats say they believe many more people were killed and that some may have been executed after surrendering.

Lopez said rumours that Noriega ordered Giroldi's death or that prisoners had been executed were false. Major Giroldi "died in combat, as did the rest of those who died," he said.

Endara emerged from hiding Monday and said he was ending a 20-day hunger strike.

Papandreou seeks comeback

ATHENS (Agencies) — Former Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou has launched a comeback campaign for November elections, angrily denouncing the outgoing coalition government which has sent him for trial on charges of corruption.

Papandreou, 70, gave up efforts to form a left-wing coalition government Monday, ensuring that Greece will go to the polls for the second time this year.

President Christos Sartzetakis will now make a final effort to form a government of national unity before calling the election.

In what was clearly the unofficial start of a campaign for the election, expected to be set for Nov. 5, Papandreou blasted the unprecedented alliance between the Communists and the Conservative New Democracy Party who formed a government in July with the sole purpose of cleaning up the government.

Greek Communist Party chief

Harilaos Florakis was summoned to the presidential palace late Monday where he declined Sartzetakis' offer to explore the possibility of forming a coalition.

The 75-year-old Communist had disclosed his intentions shortly after Premier Tzannis Tzannetakis submitted his conservative-led government's resignation Saturday. He believed that the formation of a government which could face the nation's problems from the present parliament was not feasible.

Conservative New Democracy Party leader Constantine Mitsotakis had also rejected a presidential mandate within hours of the government's resignation in order to "quickly clear any obstacles to elections" Nov. 5.

"They polarised Greece by unleashing political persecution in the name of a government clean-up campaign," the Socialist party leader told 85,000 noisy supporters who packed Athens Olympic Stadium Monday night.

The Conservative-Communist coalition, united by its determination to prosecute former Socialist ministers, resigned Saturday saying it had finished the job of cleaning up a string of scandals which plagued Papandreou's government.

It has sent Papandreou and five of his ministers for trial on charges of complicity in a bank embezzlement scandal, illegal telephone wire-tapping and illegal grain sales to the European Community.

In his most rousing speech in months, Papandreou opened fire on Conservative economic policies and the Communist leadership which, he said, had betrayed voters by forming the coalition.

The Olympic Stadium was packed to capacity with Papandreou supporters chanting "We know the conservatives, never again," lighting red flares and waving green and white Socialist flags.

U.N. cuts rations to Cambodia refugees

ARANYAPRATHET, Thailand (AP) — The United Nations has cut its food rations to the largest Cambodian refugee camp because some of its aid has been diverted to guerrillas fighting inside Cambodia, relief sources said Tuesday.

Sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said food aid at site 2 was cut by nearly 20 per cent after disclosures that refugees were selling or otherwise diverting the food to the military.

Site 2 houses more than 180,000 followers of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) one of three major guerrilla groups fighting the pro-Hanoi government in Cambodia.

The KPNLF recently launched an offensive against the Cambodian army from its bases along the Thai-Cambodian border and claimed to have scored major successes.

A spokesman of the U.N. Border Relief Operation (UNBRO), Robert Burrows, said regular rations to the residents of site 2 had not been reduced.



"UNBRO has, however, reluctantly decided to suspend further delivery of administration workers' rations and some of the social rations pending clarification of their use," he said.

Administration rations are given to Cambodians at the camp who help distribute food to the general population or otherwise help with administration of the camp. Social rations are special food supplies given to certain well-identified groups such as single-parent families.

Relief officials note that diversion of food, medicine and other humanitarian aid provided by aid agencies to the refugees has been going on since the programme began a decade ago.

Some said officials privately have been especially critical of the aid being supplied to Khmer Rouge guerrillas, who exercise rigid authority over the civilians under their control.

Human rights organisations have cited numerous human rights abuses at the Khmer Rouge camps.

Indian devises world language

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — If K.S. Gopalakrishna had his way, "I love you," would become "1171 25310 1172 1" or "Kata Gecab Katam," in a language the Indian computer-linguist claims will help unite the world.

The 58-year-old inventor says that through Abasama, as he calls himself and his computer-based language, everyone from Albanians to African Xhosa tribes will be able to understand one another easily.

The self-educated son of farmers, Gopalakrishna says he began work on his language in 1964 and had to support his efforts with income from his four-hectare fruit farm. His own family was unenthusiastic about the project, he says.

In 1980, Gopalakrishna founded the Universal Digital Communication Research Institute, which is now supported by the Indian government and includes a number of prominent scientists and government officials on its board of directors.

In an interview, Gopalakrishna said he was still trying to propagate Abasama outside India, not for profit but to encourage communication through numbers and systematic use of computers.

"Computer technology is be-

coming like tribal cultures. We need a universal set of which everyone is a member. Then we can all communicate internationally," he said. "A common code is necessary."

The inventor said that in his language, words are allotted a numerical value. For example, pronouns like he, she or I are given the number 1000. The zeros are then changed according to the word's gender, number and case.

The greatest advantage of Abasama, he says, is that the numbers allotted to a meaning are fixed and those same numbers are given to the word of the same meaning in any other language.

These number sequences can be translated into any language that has developed a dictionary corresponding to the numbers allotted to meanings in the Abasama language.

Through computers, a text in one language can be directly translated into another immediately. The user does not need to know the "universal digital language," as he also calls it, to be able to communicate through a computer.

Dictionaries for Abasama have already been compiled in English, Hindi and Sanskrit, Gopalakrishna says.